



President Barack Obama speaks during the annual National Veterans Day commemoration, Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2015, at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va.

(AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

Obama Visits Arlington National Cemetery to Honor Veterans

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President Barack Obama lays a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns, Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2015, at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va. during Veterans Day ceremonies.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama urged the public Wednesday to keep veterans in their thoughts long after the annual holiday honoring them. At an observance at Arlington National Cemetery, Obama said the Department of Veterans Affairs is getting a bigger budget

and making progress on entrenched problems such as veteran homelessness and a backlog of disability claims.

"Still the unacceptable problems that we've seen, like long wait times and some veterans not getting the timely care that they need, is a challenge for all of us if we are to match our words with deeds," Obama said. He said his message to every veteran is "that I am still not satisfied."

Obama said the Veterans Day federal holiday is about more than showing gratitude to veterans. "It is also a reminder of all that they still have to give our nation, and our duty to them," he said.

He said the country is in the midst of a new wave of veterans who served in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere.

He asked communities and businesses to consider hiring veterans, and said some 200,000 veterans are returning to civilian life every year.

"If you want to get the job done, hire a vet," Obama said.

"They're ready to serve and they'll make you proud."

The president also laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns and bowed his head in a moment of silence.

Separately Wednesday, first lady Michelle Obama joined Vice President Joe Biden and his wife, Jill, to headline a luncheon for military women — active-duty service members and veterans, spouses and caregivers — at the Bidens' official residence at the Naval Observatory. A meal of grilled salmon, wild rice pilaf and an apple dessert was served under a tent on the Bidens' lawn on the breezy, fall day.

The event was part of Joining Forces, an ongoing initiative by Mrs. Obama and Mrs. Biden to support military families. □



Arnold DeVille of Washington, visits the grave of his brother in law, Army PFC Frank McCoy, who received the purple heart while serving in Vietnam, and died in 1997, Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2015, on Veterans Day in Section 60 in Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va.

(AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

Two candidates say they know Putin 'the best'

EDITOR'S NOTE - A look at political claims that take shortcuts with the facts or don't tell the full story.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin had a bit part in the latest Republican presidential debate as two of the candidates tried to indicate they had an inside track with the Kremlin leader.

During the debate Tuesday, billionaire businessman Donald Trump declared himself a "stablemate" with Putin because both were on the same TV program — once and thousands of miles (kilometers) apart. Former chief executive Carly Fiorina claimed a "private meeting" with Putin, but the setting was a holding room where they sat before giving speeches.

Speaking of Putin, Trump said: "I got to know him very well because we were both on '60 Minutes,' we were stablemates, and we did very well that night. But, you know that."

Fiorina said the U.S. is currently in a weak position with Russia and that is "one of the reasons I've said that I would not be talking to Vladimir Putin right now, although I have met him as well, not in a green room for a show, but in a private meeting."

At least Fiorina actually had a chance meeting with Putin — in a holding room before she and the Russian leader addressed a Beijing conference in 2001. During a September appearance on "The Tonight Show," she described how they sat in adjacent chairs for 45 minutes while they each waited to speak.

Trump's only connection to the Russian leader was the television show. He was interviewed in New York, Putin in Moscow, and they weren't even in the same segment on the program. □

Special Debate Analysis:

No real breakouts in Republican hopefuls' debate

STEVE PEOPLES

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Marco Rubio emerged unscathed. Ben Carson defended his integrity. Donald Trump flashed his dominant personality. And Jeb Bush avoided disaster. Mission accomplished.

Aided by tentative questioning, the Republican Party's top presidential candidates executed their strategies with little resistance in Tuesday night's prime-time debate. Yet with no breakout moments — good or bad — the muddled status quo continues in the Republican Party's unruly 2016 contest, with time running out to change voters' minds heading into the holiday season.

That's good news for leading outsiders Trump and Carson, who have surprised the political world with remarkable staying power atop national polls. It's also good news for a surging Rubio, who entered the night with a target on his back and avoided any stumbles.

The status quo is not as good for Bush, the onetime establishment favorite now clinging to his political life. The former Florida governor lived to fight another day after Tuesday's performance. But he was overshadowed at times by another pragmatic-minded executive, Ohio Gov. John Kasich, who stepped on Bush's opportunities and



Republican presidential candidates John Kasich, Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio, Donald Trump, Ben Carson, Ted Cruz, Carly Fiorina and Rand Paul take the stage before the Republican presidential debate at the Milwaukee Theatre in Milwaukee. (AP Photo/Jeffrey Phelps)

gave nervous supporters another reason to question Bush's focused comeback attempt in the early voting state of New Hampshire.

Bush's best moments came early in the night as he showed a feistier side with moderators, who ignored him for the first 15 minutes. "You've already made two comments, John," Bush said to Kasich, who is challenging Bush in New Hampshire. "It's my turn."

But Bush did not stand out on a night that featured just eight candidates on the main stage, two fewer than the last debate. He answered the fewest questions and had less airtime than anyone except Rand Paul, according to an AP

clock.

In his limited time, Bush aggressively criticized Democrats' leadership on the economy.

"My worry is that the real economy has been hurt by the vast overreach of the Obama administration," Bush declared. "And Hillary Clinton, she wants to double down on that."

If Bush did well Tuesday night, however, Rubio did better.

Bush and the rest of the field completely ignored questions raised this week about Rubio's use of a Florida Republican credit card during his time in the state legislature. The Rubio campaign had released two years of spending reports

just days earlier.

And none of the candidates — or moderators — engaged Rubio when the discussion shifted to immigration, considered a key vulnerability among conservatives who oppose Rubio's plan to give immigrants in the country illegally a pathway to citizenship. Instead, Rubio was free to outline his calls for a strong national defense and describe his moving personal story — standard campaign trail talking points delivered uninterrupted before a national television audience. As the Rubio-Bush dynamic continued unchanged, so did the standing of Carson and Trump. □

Fox's FBN reached 13.5 million for GOP debate

DAVID BAUDER

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — An estimated 13.5 million people watched the fourth Republican presidential debate of the season on the Fox Business Network, which traded the fireworks of the previous CNBC encounter for a more sedate discussion on economic issues.

It was easily the most-watched program on FBN's history, just as the previous debates set

viewership records for Fox News Channel, CNN and CNBC. The CNBC debate reached 14 million viewers, and the other two were each seen by more than 20 million people.

The debates have consistently exceeded expectations as a television attraction, and proved viewers will hunt for their political fix. The little-known FBN is in roughly three-quarters of the nation's television homes, often high up on the

channel dial, and has never reached as many as 1 million viewers for any of its telecasts.

Moderators Neil Cavuto and Mario Bartiromo of FBN and Gerard Baker of The Wall Street Journal were closely watched after Republicans complained CNBC moderators were unduly harsh and ineffective in their questioning.

There were no onstage complaints on Tuesday. "Thank you for not asking

me what I said in the 10th grade. I appreciate that," candidate Ben Carson said after Cavuto asked him what stories questioning the accuracy of his biography were doing to his campaign.

While Carson chuckled, Cavuto grinned, and then said, I will forget that follow-up."

Questions concerned tax policy, jobs, immigration and retiree benefits, before a late-debate detour into foreign policy. □

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Outgoing Prime Minister Stephen Harper, right, and prime minister-designate Justin Trudeau attend a ceremonial service on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. Although U.S.-Canadian relations appeared to get off to a rocky start as soon as Trudeau was elected prime minister last month, relations are expected to improve dramatically. (Sean Kilpatrick/The Canadian Press via AP)

ROB GILLIES
Associated Press
WASHINGTON/TORONTO
(AP) — U.S.-Canadian rela-

tions appeared to get off to a rocky start as soon as Justin Trudeau was elected prime minister last month.

Almost immediately, he said he would pull Canada's six fighter jets from the U.S.-led campaign

US-Canada ties likely to improve

against the Islamic State group. Just weeks later, after Trudeau was sworn in, President Barack Obama rejected the Keystone XL Canada-to-Texas oil pipeline.

But appearances can be deceiving. Relations are expected to improve dramatically.

Trudeau and Obama share an ideological bond. Both are liberals who believe the government can be a force for good. They will be allies when world leaders and top diplomats come to Paris on Nov. 30 to hash out what organizers hope will be the biggest global deal ever to fight global warming.

And, from the Obama administration's perspective, Trudeau is a vast improvement over his Conservative predecessor, Stephen Harper, who put himself at odds with the president by making Keystone the defining issue in relations between the neighbors.

Trudeau pointedly rejected that: "The Canada-U.S. relationship is much bigger than any one project," he said after Obama announced his decision.

Trudeau has said repairing soured relations will be a top priority. "That has actually been a point of frustration for the Americans that I've spoken with, that all this government wants to talk about is a single pipeline project," Trudeau said just days before beating Harper in the Oct. 19 election.

New Liberal Government House Leader Dominic LeBlanc said the Keystone XL rejection removes a major irritant. "The American decision gives the new government an opportunity, frankly, to reset the relationship with the American administration, particularly on issues like working constructively against the global threat that is climate change," he said.

Trudeau has said Canada's days of being a less-than-enthusiastic actor on climate change are over. Under Harper, Canada pulled out of the Kyoto Protocol, the emissions reduction program for rich

countries, and Harper was perceived by environmentalists as more interested in protecting oil-rich Alberta than efforts to stem the effects of climate change.

"Canada and the U.S. will probably be singing from the same song book in Paris. For the first time in 10 years the Canadian government accepts the basic premise of climate change," said Robert Bothwell, a Canadian history professor at the University of Toronto.

The top priority for the Obama administration will be to get Trudeau to support a trade deal with Pacific Rim countries, a legacy issue for the U.S. president. Harper's government signed the Trans-Pacific Partnership, but it requires ratification in Parliament. The Liberal party has long favored free trade, and Trudeau is expected to back it.

Nelson Wiseman, a political science professor at the University of Toronto, doesn't believe Trudeau's pulling Canada's fighter jets from the mission against the Islamic State group will harm relations. Trudeau, he noted, could compensate by offering more troops to Canada's training mission with the Kurds in northern Iraq.

"Obama will be more comfortable with Trudeau because they are both liberals," Wiseman said.

Obama's closet advisers have ties to Trudeau's advisers. David Axelrod, who helped mastermind Obama's 2008 campaign and offered advice to Trudeau's team, tweeted congratulations to Trudeau's top advisers for running a spectacular campaign and said "Hope beats fear." Obama's seven-year reluctance to approve Keystone XL dominated his administration's relationship with Harper. While Trudeau supported the pipeline, it was not a legacy issue like it was for Harper, who vowed Canada would become an energy super power. Harper's home province of Alberta has the third-largest oil reserves in the world. □



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Online threats against blacks net arrest at Missouri campus

SUMMER BALLENTINE
Associated Press

COLUMBIA, Missouri (AP)

— A white college student suspected of posting on-line threats to shoot black students and faculty at the University of Missouri was charged Wednesday with making a terrorist threat, adding to the racial tension at the heart of the protests that led two top administrators to resign earlier this week.

Hunter M. Park, a 19-year-old sophomore studying computer science at a sister campus in Rolla, was arrested shortly before 2 a.m. at a residence hall, authorities said. The school said no weapons were found. Boone County prosecutors announced the criminal charge later Wednesday and recommended that he be held without bond. Park, who is enrolled at the Missouri University of Science and Technology, was jailed in Columbia, about 75 miles (120 kilometers) to the northwest.

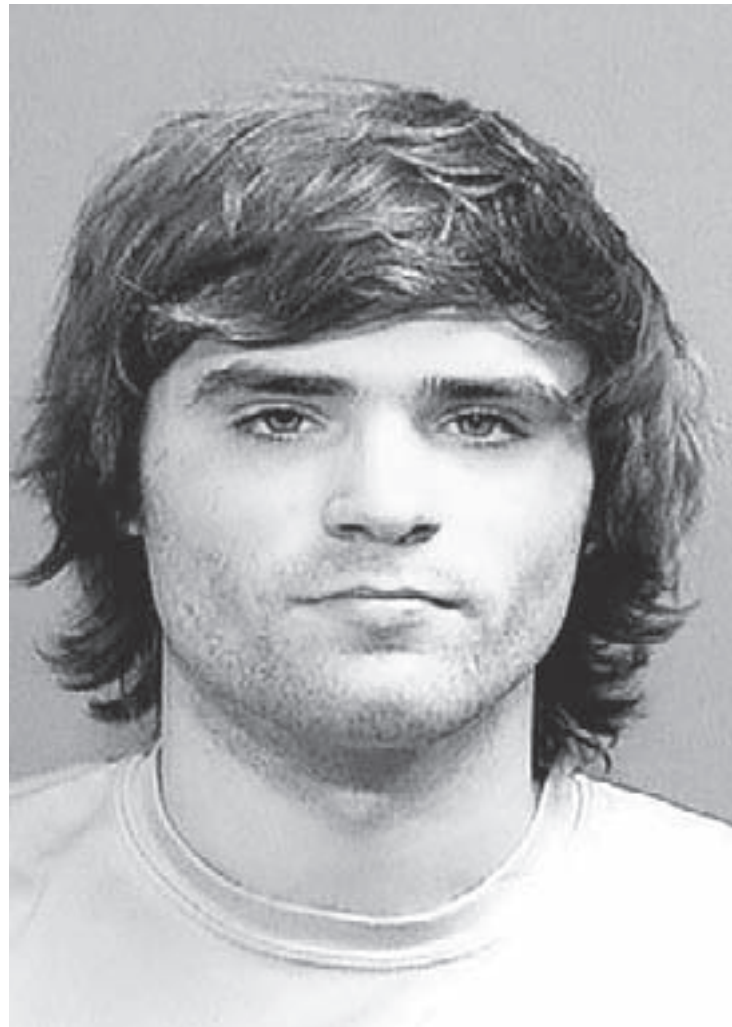
The author of the posts, which showed up Tuesday on the anonymous location-based messaging app YikYak and other social media, threatened to

"shoot every black person I see." The posts followed the resignations on Monday of the University of Missouri system president and the chancellor of its flagship campus in Columbia. Months of protests culminated in a tumultuous week on the Columbia campus.

Back in September, the student government president reported that people shouted racial slurs at him from a passing pickup truck, galvanizing the protest movement. Last week, a graduate student went on a hunger strike to demand the resignation of university system President Tim Wolfe over his handling of racial complaints.

Then more than 30 members of the Missouri football team refused to practice or play in support of the hunger striker. Those developments came to a head Monday with the resignation of Wolfe and Chancellor R. Bowen Loftin, the top administrator of the Columbia campus.

A message left by The Associated Press on Park's mother's cellphone was not returned. An AP reporter got no answer when



This booking photo shows Hunter M. Park. The 19-year-old man who is suspected of posting online threats to shoot black students and faculty was arrested Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2015, authorities said, adding to the racial tensions at the heart of the protests that led to the resignations of two University of Missouri leaders earlier this week. (Boone County SD via AP)

he knocked on the door of the family's home in the affluent St. Louis suburb of

Lake St. Louis. By Wednesday afternoon, authorities were investi-

gating a second threat on YikYak, this one leveled at the Rolla campus by someone saying, "I'm gonna shoot up this school."

When the first threat emerged, the school's on-line emergency information center tweeted, "There is no immediate threat to campus," and asked students not to spread rumors. Park has excelled academically in science. As a senior at Wentzville's Holt High School in early 2014, he was a member of the school district's robotics team when he won the honors division for a project titled "A Novel Method for Determination of Camera Pose Estimation Based on Angle Constraints."

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that the project advanced to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Los Angeles. A spokeswoman for the Rolla school, Mary Helen Stoltz, said she did not know whether the university planned to take any action against Park over his arrest. On Wednesday, student foot traffic in Columbia was light as freshman Megan Grazman was on her way to class. □

7 of 9 on plane that crashed in Ohio were from Florida firm

MARK GILLISPIE
MITCH STACY

Associated Press

AKRON, Ohio (AP) — Seven associates of a Florida real estate investment company were on the second day of a multicity Midwestern trip to look at property for potential shopping centers when their small jet crashed into an Ohio apartment house, killing all nine people onboard. The crash Tuesday after-

noon in Akron — 2 miles (3 kilometers) from the small airport where the plane was to land — killed two executives and five employees at Pebb Enterprises, a Boca Raton-based company that specializes in shopping centers. The two pilots also were killed.

"Our hearts are broken this morning with the news of the tragic accident that took the lives of two principals and five employees

of Pebb Enterprises," said a statement posted Wednesday on the company website. Officials haven't released names of the victims, but family members at the crash scene said the dead included 50-year-old Diane Smoot, who was with the group from Pebb Enterprises, her sister told Cleveland.com. The National Transportation Safety Board recovered the cockpit voice recorder, which

was being sent to a lab in Washington. Investigators also reviewed surveillance video from a construction company that showed the plane coming in along the tops of trees and banking to the left before it crashed and exploded into flames and a cloud of black smoke, said Bella Dinh-Zarr, vice chairman of the NTSB. The left wing hit the ground first before the plane crashed into the apart-

ment house, she said. A pilot who had just landed at a nearby airport reported hearing no distress calls despite being on the same communications frequency as the aircraft that went down, the NTSB said. The plane departed from Cincinnati on Tuesday morning and stopped in Dayton before crashing on its approach to Akron Fulton International just before 3 p.m. □

After 2-year wait, some adopted children reach US from Congo



Jennefer Boyer of Sammamish, Wash., helps her adopted son Andre, 6, center, greet children from a welcoming party as they arrive from the Congo at Dulles International Airport, Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2015, in Dulles, Va. The welcoming party was organized by some of the 400 U.S. families who will continue to wait for long-stalled exit permits for adopted children to celebrate 14 children permitted to leave the Congo. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

DAVID CRARY
AP National Writer

After a wrenching delay of more than two years, a few American families celebrated on U.S. territory Wednesday with children adopted from Congo who were finally granted long-stalled exit permits. There was a bittersweet welcoming ceremony at Dulles International Airport

outside Washington, D.C., organized by some of the more than 400 U.S. families who will continue to wait. Congolese authorities recently approved exit permits for 14 children adopted by Americans, and for about 58 adopted by Canadian and European families. But more than 1,000 other adopted children will remain in Congo

lese orphanages and foster homes pending completion of a new adoption law. At Dulles, some of those still-waiting parents were in tears, and held up photos of the children they've adopted. Joyfully disembarking from the plane at Dulles were Jason and Jennefer Boyer of Sammamish, Washing-

ton, and their adopted sons Andre and Luke, who were offered tiny U.S. and Congolese flags by some of the welcoming crowd. Jennefer Boyer had spent the past nine months with the boys in Congo's capital, Kinshasa; her husband flew there to meet them and return to the U.S. together for a reunion with their two biological daughters. "I am still in disbelief," Jennefer Boyer said in a Facebook post before the flight home. "A family miracle is taking place." The Boyers also brought with them a Congolese boy named Isaac, who reunited with the couple — Eric and Jennifer Sands of Normal, Illinois — who completed his adoption in October 2013. The Sandses have two biological daughters, and they also adopted twin sisters from Congo before the cutoff of exit permits. They just missed a chance to bring Isaac with them two years ago; both parents have made several subsequent visits to see him in Kinshasa. Jennifer Sands said her

family's elation was tempered by empathy for the many other families whose adoptions remain stalled. "This is such a bittersweet time," she said. "We are so happy and blessed, but my heart is broken that the others don't have the same reunion right now." Among those waiting parents was Julie Massie of Richmond, Virginia, who helped organize the welcome ceremony at Dulles. Massie and her husband, Chris, who have a 7-year-old biological son, are waiting for the chance to bring home from Congo a 6-year-old girl and 3-year-old boy whose adoptions were approved more than two years ago. "When we were told that the 14 children were getting exit permits, we were just elated for those families — we've all been in this together," Julie Massie said. "But on the same day we were told that the remaining children will have to wait for new laws to be passed, and there's no telling how long that will take," she added. "That was the devastating part of the news." □

Order to take baby from lesbian foster parents under review

BRADY McCOMBS
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Utah state child welfare officials on Wednesday were reviewing a ruling by a juvenile court judge who ordered a baby to be taken from lesbian foster parents and instead placed with a heterosexual couple for the child's well-being. Judge Scott Johansen's order Tuesday raised concerns at the Utah Division of Child and Family Services, agency spokeswoman

Ashley Sumner said. Its attorneys plan to review the decision and determine what options they have to possibly challenge the order. The ruling came during a routine hearing for April Hoagland and Beckie Peirce. They are part of a group of same-sex married couples who were allowed to become foster parents in Utah after last summer's U.S. Supreme Court ruling that made gay marriage legal across the country, Sumner said.

State officials don't keep an exact count but estimate there are a dozen or more foster parents who are married same-sex couples. Attempts to reach Hoagland and Peirce on Wednesday were unsuccessful, but the couple told KUTV (<http://bit.ly/1Sjph1o>) that they are distraught after the ruling that calls for the baby girl they have been raising for three months to be taken away within a week. They said Judge Johansen

cited research that children do better when they are raised by heterosexual couples. Hoagland believes the judge actually imposed his religious beliefs. "We are shattered," she told the Salt Lake City TV station. "It hurts me really badly because I haven't done anything wrong." Judge Johansen is precluded by judicial rules from discussing pending cases, Utah courts spokeswoman Nancy Volmer said.

Sumner said she can't speak to specifics of the case but confirmed that the couple's account of the ruling is accurate — the judge's decision was based on the couple being lesbians. The agency isn't aware of any other issues with their performance as foster parents. The ruling triggered a heated response from the Human Rights Campaign. The gay rights group called the order shocking, outrageous and unjust. □

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US Financial Front:

Macy's 3Q, a glimpse of what's to come this holiday season?

CINCINNATI (AP) — With a hint at what may be in store for shoppers this holiday season, Macy's CEO Terry Lundgren said markdowns are likely as falling sales have left the department store with excessive inventory. The opening of the retail earnings seasons began ominously with Macy's, which dragged shares of almost every retailer sharply lower Wednesday. The retail sector was by far the biggest loser on the Standard & Poor's index. Sales for the Cincinnati company fell 3.6 percent at established locations for the three months ending Oct. 31. And for the last three months of the year that encompasses the critical holiday shopping season, Macy's expects sales to fall between 2 percent and 3 percent from a year ago.

The company cut its profit forecast for the full year. Shares dropped 14 percent to \$40.44, earlier hitting their lowest point in more than two years. Not all retailers are suffering. Spending is up on electronics and stores like The Home Depot are posting huge sales numbers. But traditional retailers, particularly Macy's, are getting hit hard as the strong dollar limits the spending power of international customers. The company also blamed warmer weather, which cut into sales of coats, boots and down comforters. "We're going to take markdowns, I mean, great for consumers," he said during an interview on CNBC. "Consumers are going to have a field day because we're going to have lots of values out there." Lundgren said the company needs to clear space



The outside of a Macy's store is shown in Dallas. With a hint at what may be in store for shoppers this holiday season, Macy's CEO Terry Lundgren said markdowns are likely as falling sales have left the department store with excessive inventory.

(AP Photo/LM Otero)

for new merchandise in the new year. "We're not selling lumber, so I can't carry the lumber over into 2016," he said. Fourth-quarter gross margins will be under pressure due to markdowns, the company said. For the quarter ended Oct.

31, Macy's Inc. earned \$118 million, or 36 cents per share. Excluding one-time costs, earnings were 56 cents per share, which was two cents more than analysts expected, according to Zacks Investment Research. The one-time costs were

mostly related to the company's previously announced plans to close between 35 and 40 stores early next year. The company said Wednesday that it expects it will continue to reduce the number of its stores. Total revenue for the quarter fell to \$5.87 billion in the period, and was short of \$6.15 billion Wall Street forecast. The company now expects full-year earnings in the range of \$4.20 to \$4.30 per share, down from the previous guidance of \$4.70 to \$4.80 per share. That is short of the \$4.40 that Wall Street was expecting. Shares of Kohl's Corp. fell 5.4 percent, Nordstrom Inc. fell 3.7 percent, and Dillard's Inc. fell 8.1 percent. Stock of J.C. Penney Co. and Sears Holding Corp, which owns Kmart, also dipped. □

No empty nest: Young women live with parents like it's 1940

SARAH SKIDMORE SELL
AP Business Writer

Young women are living with their parents or relatives at a rate not seen since 1940 as more millennial women put off marriage, attend college and face high living expenses. A Pew Research Center analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data found that 36.4 percent of women between the ages 18 and 34 lived with parents or relatives in 2014, the most since at least 1940, when 36.2 percent lived with family. It is a very different world for women now, though, despite the "return to the past, statistically speaking," says Richard Fry, a senior economist at Pew. Fry says young women are staying home now be-

cause they are half as likely to be married as they were in 1940 and much more likely to be college-educated. Economic forces such as increasing student debt, higher living costs and economic uncertainty, are also playing a role. Casey Ballard, 29, was living in Portland, Oregon, but rent ate up roughly two-thirds of her paycheck and she was ready for a career change. A September move back with family in California allowed her to try out teaching as a substitute, and now she plans to pursue teaching full-time. "There was that element of frustration and feeling like a failure," she says about returning home. "But then the logical side of me kicked in

and said 'It's just fiscally responsible.'" Young men have historically lived with parents at higher rates than young women, and similar economic and cultural forces are keeping an increasing number of men at home too in recent years. But the rate young men are staying home with their parents and relatives, 42.8 percent, remains below the 47.5 percent level for men in 1940. The percentage of young men and women living with family fell after the 1940s as more women joined the workforce, the overall workforce expanded, and marriage rates increased. But while marriage was once the life event that triggered a move out of the family home, it is now com-

ing later with each generation, if it comes at all. The median age of marriage for women is now 27, up from 21.5 in 1940. For men, it is 29.3, up from 24.3 in 1940. Young women and men began staying home or returning there at a more rapid rate after 2000, a trend that sharply increased with the economic uncertainty brought on by the housing collapse and recession in the late 2000s. While the retreat home for young adults is also clearly a result of economic pressures, it is not, according to Fry, an employment issue. For example, more young adults are living with their family now than in 2010, even though the job market has improved since

then. "The job market has gotten significantly better (for this group)," Fry says. "Unemployment has come down, more have jobs and some are even getting paid a bit more." Another factor in the change, Fry says, is increased ethnic diversity across this age demographic, which in turn has introduced cultural traditions of living with parents and relatives longer into life. "I don't think it's as bad as people think it is," says Stacey Sholes, 26, who moved back into her parent's house in Fresno, California eight months ago after leaving college in San Francisco and working in Los Angeles. □

Global push for end to Syria war seen as most serious yet

BASSEM MROUE
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — The international community is mounting its most serious effort yet to end the nearly 5-year-old Syrian war, rallying around a second round of talks in Vienna this weekend amid the emergence of a Russian proposal that calls for early elections.

But the global push for peace so far excludes any of the Syrian players, and experts say any hasty decisions risk leading to even greater bloodshed.

While world leaders seem to be in agreement that the time has come to put an end to the carnage in Syria that has killed more than 250,000 people, there is still no clear roadmap on how to get there.

Still, the stepped up diplomatic activity, coupled with the U.S. decision to send special operation troops into northern Syria — something the Obama administration had long sought to avoid — reflects a new urgency and a shift in dealing with the world's most intransigent conflict.

The Russian proposal calls for drafting a new constitution within 18 months that would be put to a popular referendum and be followed by an early presidential election. But it makes no mention of Syrian President Bashar Assad stepping down during the transition — a key opposition demand and a sticking point in all previous negotiations to end the civil war. Russia's military intervention in Syria has raised Moscow's profile when it comes to Syria and given Russian President Vladimir Putin a

stronger say in how to end the conflict.

"This is really the first serious effort on the part of the United States and Russia to bridge the divide, to come up with some concrete ideas about the broad

been excluded from last year's talks in Switzerland, but attended the talks two weeks ago in Vienna along with its arch regional rival, Saudi Arabia, a key backer of the rebels fighting to topple Assad.

effort involving Syria's government and opposition groups.

The second round on Saturday again excludes the Syrians, and it is not clear yet if the Russian proposal has been coordinated with

hadeh, a member of the ruling Baath party, told The Associated Press there will be no presidential vote before Assad's latest term ends in 2021.

He added that parliamentary elections are an internal Syrian affair and that it was still too early to hold them.

Assad was elected for a third seven-year term last year in an election boycotted by the opposition and dismissed as a sham by its Western supporters.

The vote was held only in government-controlled areas of Syria, which have since shrunk further, with Islamic extremists seizing more areas of the country. Allies of the Syrian government recognized the legitimacy of the election, and the fighting worsened.

Russia began launching airstrikes in support of Assad's troops on Sept. 30. The stated aim was hitting at Islamic State extremists, but the airstrikes have improved the position of Assad's forces, who have gone on the offensive in some areas. On Tuesday, government troops broke a siege imposed by the Islamic State group on a northern military air base since 2013, marking the first major achievement by Assad's forces since Russia began its airstrikes.

Hezbollah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah, whose fighters have played a key role in backing Assad, said the latest battlefield gains by government forces show that their rivals "should move toward a political solution without preconditions that are impossible to achieve." □



This photo shows Syrian government troops hug each other in celebration inside the Kweiras air base, east of Aleppo, Syria, Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2015. Syrian government forces broke a siege imposed by the Islamic State group on the northern military air base of Kweiras since 2013. The international community is mounting its most serious effort yet to end the nearly five-year-old Syrian war.

(SANA via AP)

contours of a diplomatic settlement," said Fawaz Gerges, a Middle East expert at the London School of Economics.

The divides have narrowed considerably, he said, adding that the Americans and the Russians now seem to see eye-to-eye on restructuring the political system by drafting a new constitution and holding early elections.

The involvement of Russia and Iran, two key allies of Assad, is essential in any talks on Syria. Iran had

The Syria conflict has turned into a proxy war between regional and international foes, and observers have long said that any attempt to end the fighting will have to come from an agreement between the warring parties' regional backers, who can then strong-arm the groups they support into making the necessary concessions.

At the initial talks in Vienna on Oct. 30, the U.S., Russia, Iran and more than a dozen other nations agreed to launch a new peace

the Syrian government. The proposal also does not address a mechanism for bringing about a cease-fire ahead of talks.

"The political future of Dr. Bashar Assad should only be decided by the Syrian people in democratic elections," said Iran's deputy foreign minister for Arab and African affairs, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, speaking in Beirut on Wednesday following a visit to Moscow. But that is easier said than done.

Syrian legislator Sharif She-

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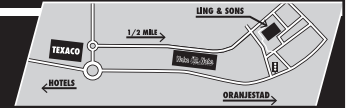
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AP: Spain court suspends Catalan secession push

A. CLENDENNING
CIARAN GILES
Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — Spain's Constitutional Court on Wednesday halted a push by separatist regional Catalan lawmakers to set a road map toward independence by 2017, acting just hours after Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy mounted a legal challenge to the secession bid and accused separatists of plotting to destroy centuries of Spanish unity. The court's unanimous acceptance to review the Spanish government's legal case suspended a resolution passed Monday by the Catalonia parliament in Barcelona authorizing it to begin work on a Catalan constitution and to establish tax-collecting and security systems.

In a statement, the court warned Catalan politicians that they could face criminal charges if they defy its ruling. Just after his administration's legal officials filed the case, Rajoy blasted the Catalan independence resolution as an attack on Spain's sovereignty and democracy. "We're talking about the defense of an entire country," he told reporters in an address and news conference carried live on Spanish television. "They are trying to liquidate the unity of a nation with more than five centuries of history." The Catalonia parliament resolution also exempted the regional administration from being forced to heed Spanish institutions, including the Constitutional Court, setting up a legal collision course between separatists and Spain's government if the separatists attempt to take more steps toward independence. □

Greece's new government gears up for general strike

ELENA BECATOROS
Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greece is bracing for the first general strike since the left-wing government first came to power in January, with workers across the country to walk off the job to protest against yet more spending cuts and tax hikes.

In a first, the governing Syriza party itself is backing the walkout against the measures, which leader Alexis Tsipras has said he had no choice but to implement as part of a bailout deal and avoid economic disaster.

Thursday's 24-hour strike is to shut down all public services, museums, schools and pharmacies, while public transport will be disrupted, ferries will remain tied up in port and hospitals will function with emergency staff.

More than a dozen domestic flights to small regional airports will be cancelled as civil aviation authority staff participate in the strike. Journalists will also walk off the job, cancelling

all news broadcasts and online news updates.

Syriza's Labor Policy division has called for mass

Greece."

Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras won a second election in September after back-

lion euro bailout from other European countries.

The policy change was a dramatic shift from the plat-



An elderly woman begs next to banners announcing tomorrow's general strike in Athens, Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2015. Greece is gearing up for the first general strike since the left-wing Syriza-led government initially came to power last January, with workers across the country to walk off the job protesting yet more spending cuts and tax hikes that are part of conditions for the country's third international bailout. (AP Photo/Thanassis Stavrakis)

participation from workers "against the neoliberal policies and the blackmail from financial and political centers within and outside

ing down from his previous anti-austerity positions and accepting a deal to impose further measures in return for a three-year, 86-bil-

form on which he originally won elections in January, when he had vowed to rip up Greece's bailout conditions and end austerity. □

Portugal eyes anti-austerity policy experiment

BARRY HATTON
Associated Press

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — Portugal is facing days of political and economic uncertainty as the euro-zone nation waits to hear whether the anti-austerity lawmakers who forced the government's resignation will take power — and how they intend to manage the country's fragile public finances.

President Anibal Cavaco Silva began formal procedures for a change of power by meeting Wednesday with the speaker of Parliament and outgoing Prime

Minister Pedro Passos Coelho. He was also meeting in the coming days with labor groups, business leaders and all political parties.

Parliament speaker Eduardo Rodrigues said the political upheaval was "not a positive situation" for the country. The head of state is widely expected to invite Socialist Party leader Antonio Costa to be prime minister. Costa forged a pact with the Communist Party and radical Left Bloc to bring down the center-right government after 11 days, making it the shortest Portuguese administration

on record. Cavaco Silva could also opt to install a caretaker government until a new election can be held.

"At this point we are all waiting. Portugal is on hold," said unemployed Magda Rodrigues outside a Lisbon welfare center. She wants to set up her own business and is hopeful the new government will offer her more tax breaks.

The outgoing government got most votes in an October general election when it promised more years of frugality following the debt-heavy country's

78 billion-euro (\$84 billion) bailout in 2011. But the second-placed Socialist Party formed an unprecedented leftist alliance to create an outright parliamentary majority that voted against the government's four-year policy proposals Tuesday, automatically bringing its resignation.

That alliance wants to ease austerity and focus on growth by putting more money in people's pockets. To do that, it has promised to reverse the tax increases and pay and pension cuts introduced after the bailout. □

EU pressing African nations to take some migrants back

LORNE COOK
ELDAR EMRIC
Associated Press

VALLETTA, Malta (AP) — The European Union pressed African leaders on Wednesday to take back thousands of people who do not qualify for asylum, as overwhelmed Slovenia began building a razor-wire border fence to keep migrants at bay, raising tensions with neighboring Croatia.

Sweden, struggling to manage the influx too, became the latest EU nation to announce the introduction of temporary border controls, as of Thursday.

According to the International Organization for Migration, almost 800,000 people have entered Europe by sea this year. The EU predicts that three million more could arrive by 2017.

The Europeans say most Africans are coming in search of work and should be sent home, but many deliberately arrive without documents and must wait months before they are taken back.

At an EU-run summit in Malta, African leaders are set to commit "to cooperate with the EU on return and admission, notably on travel documentation," according to the latest draft of an "Action Plan" being drawn up.

The president of Niger — a major transit route for Africans heading to lawless Libya in the hopes of crossing the Mediterranean to Europe — was cautious about opening the floodgates for people to return.

"We are open to talk about it. Everything will depend on the conditions that will be put in place for when they arrive," President Mahamadou Issoufou told reporters in the Maltese capital Valletta, adding that the best method of solving Europe's migration crisis is to attack the root causes forcing people to leave in the first place.

"We can put security measures in place, but the flow will remain difficult to stop as long as we don't take measures to reduce poverty," he said.

The EU is working closely with Niger to stem the flow of migrants toward Libya, and ultimately to Europe. It is also trying to seal deals with Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt. One was signed with Ethiopia as the two-day summit began.

The move gives Ethiopia — a major hub for people trying to reach Europe — access to money from a 1.8 billion euro (\$1.9 billion) trust fund.

But the head of the African Union expressed concern that moving on returns too quickly might result in the building of reception centers where people are held until they can be granted asylum or be sent home.

Such centers, "whatever we call them, will become de-facto detention centers," AU chairwoman Nkosa-zana Dlamini Zuma said.

She warned that women and children would be in danger if held there, and she also hit out at some European countries that "have taken a fortress approach" to migration.

In Slovenia, meanwhile, tensions mounted after troops began erecting razor-wire along the Sutla River that divides the country from Croatia, and further south-west near the town of Gibina.

Tensions mounted when Croatian authorities said parts of the fence were in disputed territory. AP journalists saw Croatian police demand that Slovenia take down a section of the fence.

Croatian special forces arrived at the Harmica border crossing, while armed Slovenian special police watched from the Slovenian side. □

Arab, South America leaders stress common ground in support for Palestinians

ABDULLA AL-SHIHRI
AYA BATRAWY
Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Arab and South American leaders found common ground in support for the Palestinians during a

called for the creation of a Palestinian state in all of the West Bank and Gaza, with its capital in Jerusalem.

Latin American countries have been among the most vocal critics of Israel's policies in the Palestinian

actions in Gaza.

Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro has followed in the footsteps of his predecessor, Hugo Chavez, by championing Palestinian statehood as part of a broader battle against



Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir, center, Arab League's Secretary-General Nabil Elaraby, left, and Brazilian Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira, right, address journalists during a press conference after the final session summit of Arab and South American leaders in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2015.

(AP Photo/Hasan Jamali)

summit Wednesday aimed at strengthening ties between the two regions.

Venezuela's president and Saudi Arabia's monarch specifically mentioned the Palestinian cause in their public remarks. The summit's final statement also

territories, with several recalling their ambassadors for consultations to protest Israeli actions during last year's Gaza war. Venezuela is among a handful of South American countries that broke ties with Israel altogether in the past over its

perceived Western imperialism.

Saudi King Salman opened the two-day summit by commending Latin American countries for their foreign policy stances, particularly with regard to the Palestinians. □

Egypt strengthens exchange rate against dollar

MARAM MAZEN
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt strengthened the official exchange rate by 0.20 pounds against the dollar on Wednesday, defying expectations of further weakening as the country grapples with the aftermath of last month's Russian plane crash.

Figures posted Wednesday on the websites of banks, including the National Bank of Egypt, show an exchange rate of 7.83 pounds to the dollar, down from 8.03.

Egypt's state-run news agency cited bankers as

saying that the value was set after the central bank "injected large amounts of dollars in the banks today." The move came as a surprise to investors, who see the pound as overvalued and had been expecting it to be further depreciated. "I don't think it's going to resolve investors' concerns about devaluation risk in the medium term," said Hany Farahat, a senior economist at CI Capital in Egypt.

"If the new price prevails, it will add to un-clarity and confusion about monetary management, and I don't think it's positive at all" for

foreign investors, who have been expecting more devaluation, he said.

Foreign currency reserves dropped 20 percent from April to October, according to central bank data. The central bank's move followed an announcement by two of Egypt's largest banks, which are state-owned, of new Egyptian pounds saving certificates with a return of 12.5 percent.

Analysts said both moves appeared aimed at encouraging black market dealers to unload into the market dollars they are hoarding. □



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Brazil regulator bans ex-billionaire from managing companies

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Brazil's markets regulator has banned the country's one-time richest man from managing a publicly traded company for five years. This week's ruling is the latest in a series of high-profile setbacks for Eike Batista, whose meteoric rise and spectacular fall have come to symbolize the fate

of his nation. At his peak, when Brazil's economy was booming, Batista was among the top 10 on the Forbes billionaire list and often boasted he would soon dethrone Mexico's Carlos Slim as No. 1. But his much-hyped petroleum, mining and ship-building empire crumbled over the past two years,

even as Brazil slipped into recession, and Batista has said he's now around \$1 billion in debt. He also faces a host of legal actions stemming from the multi-billion dollar defaults of four of his companies. The most high-profile case was the soap-opera-esque insider trading trial in which a judge was spotted

driving a Porsche Cayenne that was among several luxury cars he ordered seized from Batista. That case has yet to resume since the judge's ouster. Tuesday's ruling by the Securities Commission stems from separate allegations of conflict of interest within what was once the jewel in Batista's crown, his OGX

oil company. The regulator found Batista violated conflict of interest rules when he voted to approve OGX's 2013 financial results while he was the chief executive, the commission said in a statement on its website. Brazilian media reported that Batista's lawyer will appeal the decision.

Argentine election front-runner criticizes region's leftists



Top opposition presidential candidate Mauricio Macri, center, meets with supporters during a campaign stop in an impoverished neighborhood of Buenos Aires' province, Argentina, Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2015.

(AP Photo/Victor R. Caivano)

DEBORA REY
Associated Press
BUENOS AIRES, Argentina

(AP) — Mauricio Macri, the front-runner in Argentina's impending presidential

runoff, is casting himself as the pragmatic candidate whose ideology is to "get

things done," promising to steer his country away from the socialism espoused by many of the region's leaders. Speaking to foreign correspondents this week, the business-friendly opposition candidate described his vision of governing as "21st century development" as opposed to "21st century socialism" — a term used by supporters of the late Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and his successor Nicolas Maduro, as well as their regional allies. "Our ideology is to resolve problems and get things done," Macri said. "We don't believe that Argentina's future lies in the recipes of the past. There is an intermediary way that is solving the problems of the people, telling the truth and respecting institutions." Macri continued with his campaign strategy of

promising both major economic reforms to address Argentina's myriad economic ills and a common-sense government that will work well with the international community. He is contrasting himself with outgoing President Cristina Fernandez, who during more than eight years in power shifted the country to the left and frequently fought with foreign leaders, political opponents at home and creditors abroad. The message appears to be working well for Macri, who shook up the political landscape with a much-better than expected finish in the Oct. 25 first round of the presidential election. Macri, the outgoing mayor of Buenos Aires, got 34 percent support, compared to 37 percent for Daniel Scioli, the governing party candidate and Fernandez's chosen successor. □

Legislators from Americas seek free Venezuela elections

LUIS ALONSO LUGO
Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. senators and leading lawmakers from Latin America asked Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro on Wednesday to guarantee free, transparent and democratic parliamentary elections next month. The 157 legislators from the

United States, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Costa Rica and Peru also asked Maduro to allow election observers from the Organization of American States and the European Union to watch the Dec. 6 vote. They expressed concern that several opposition leaders who are behind bars will be unable to participate in the

elections. "We reiterate our desire for a successful outcome in the upcoming elections in Venezuela and the need for your support in facilitating the participation of international election observers to guarantee the objectivity and credibility of the process," their letter said.

A written copy of themissive was delivered to the Venezuelan Embassy in Washington early Wednesday. The mission did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The legislators' request came one day after OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro declared that Venezuelan authorities were

not guaranteeing "a level of transparency and justice" necessary to hold the contest. Diosdado Cabello, president of Venezuela's National Assembly, responded shortly after Almagro's statement, characterizing it as a threat and saying the OAS was a discredited organization.

Chilean priest punished for sex abuse claims he is innocent

LUIS ANDRES HENAO
Associated Press

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — A prominent priest who has been punished for sex abuse by the Vatican proclaimed his innocence in court Wednesday, testifying in a case that three of his alleged victims brought against Chile's Catholic Church.

Gray-haired and balding, the Rev. Fernando Karadi-

ma of El Bosque in Santiago for nearly six decades before the abuse allegations came to light in April 2010, when a news investigation into the charges was broadcast on state television. Two months later, the then archbishop of Santiago, Cardinal Francisco Javier Errazuriz, forwarded the allegations to the Vatican amid an eruption of abuse cases globally.

through press reports, and said he was never sanctioned by his superiors, according to court documents.

"He has not changed his stance of denying everything, of not recalling even things that he said before," Juan Pablo Hermosilla, a lawyer for the three victims, said after the hearing.

"His statement had a lot of 'I don't remember' in it,



Fernando Karadima is escorted from a court, after testifying in a case that three of his victims brought against the country's Catholic Church in Santiago, Chile, Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2015.

(AP Photo/Luis Hidalgo)

ma walked into court wearing a Roman collar and left holding rosary beads, flanked by police officers after being questioned for more than two hours.

Angry protesters waited outside. Some screamed "Pedophile!" and banged on the tinted windows of the dark SUV that drove him back to the convent where he has been living in isolation since the Vatican ordered him to a life of penance and prayer in 2011 for abusing young boys.

"I don't recognize the abuses, with children. Never, ever," Karadima testified, according to a court transcript obtained by The Associated Press.

"I maintain my innocence ... I never had sexual relations with those who accuse me."

Karadima was once one of Chile's most popular priests. He led the parish

Victims say allegations against Karadima were reported earlier but were ignored by the cardinal. Errazuriz, who is one of nine cardinals on Pope Francis' key advisory panel, has acknowledged in court testimony that he failed to act on several abuse allegations because he believed them to be untrue.

A Chilean judge later determined the abuse allegations against Karadima were truthful but ruled the time limit had expired for him to be prosecuted.

The three victims who filed the lawsuit accuse Chile's Catholic Church of a cover-up and are demanding a total of \$640,000 in compensation and a public apology. The church has rejected the accusation.

Karadima testified Wednesday that he first found out about the abuse accusations against him in 2010

which was expected. He recalled only when it was convenient to him."

The Vatican's punishment for Karadima is one often used for elderly priests who sexually abused children years ago. Rather than subject the priests and victims to a lengthy church trial, which might not end before the priest in question dies, the Vatican can impose an administrative sanction such as the one Karadima received, which essentially renders the man a priest in name only.

But Karadima has remained defiant. Although he was also ordered by the Vatican to never again celebrate a public Mass, he was photographed disobeying the order last year. Chile's top church leaders later confirmed his act of insubordination and sent the case to the Vatican for investigation. □

Nephews of Venezuelan first lady held on US drug charges

JOSHUA GOODMAN
ALICIA A. CALDWELL

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Two nephews of Venezuela's powerful first lady Cilia Flores were arrested in Haiti on charges of conspiring to smuggle 800 kilograms of cocaine into the U.S. and will be arraigned in New York, three people familiar with the case said Wednesday.

The arrest Tuesday, coming just three weeks ahead of key Venezuelan legislative elections, is likely to exacerbate already tense relations between the U.S. and Venezuela and cast a hard look at U.S. accusations of drug trafficking at the highest levels of embattled President Nicolas Maduro's socialist administration.

The two suspects, Efrain Campos and Francisco Flores, were extradited from Haiti and are set to be arraigned Thursday in a federal court in New York, said a U.S. law enforcement official, who insisted on speaking anonymously since he was not authorized to discuss the case because the indictment naming the men was still under seal.

Michael Vigil, a former head of international operations at the Drug Enforcement Administration who was briefed by U.S. authorities about the lengthy undercover operation, said Campos and Flores were arrested in Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, after arriving from Venezuela aboard a private plane. Both men were carrying diplomatic passports even though they don't have diplomatic immunity, Vigil said.

He also said Campos had claimed to law enforcement that he is the son of Flores and stepson of Maduro.

Another person briefed on the incident, who agreed to talk about the case only if not quoted by name, said Campos is the son of a deceased sister of Flores and was partly raised by the first lady and Maduro. Flores, who Maduro calls the "First Combatant," is one of the most-powerful members of Venezuela's revolutionary government and a constant presence alongside her husband whenever he appears in public. The two traveled this week to Saudi Arabia for a summit and she's expected to be with the president Thursday when he's scheduled to address the United Nations Human Rights Council at a special meeting in Geneva called at Venezuela's request.

A former president of the National Assembly who is now running for congress, Flores became romantically involved with Maduro in the 1990s while serving as lawyer for the then-jailed Hugo Chavez. Maduro was one of many leftist activists drawn to the charismatic junior army officer following his arrest for a failed 1992 coup attempt. The two formally wed in 2013 shortly after Maduro was elected.

Venezuela's Communications Ministry and Foreign Ministry declined to comment about the reported arrests, saying they had no information about the incident.

American prosecutors have been steadily stepping up pressure on high-ranking members of Venezuela's military, police and government officials for their alleged role in making the country an important transit zone for narcotics heading to the U.S. and Europe. The U.S. government says more than 200 tons a year of cocaine flows through Venezuela, about a third of Colombia's estimated production. □



Aruba Human Resources Association Hosts Dynamic Regional Exposition



PALM BEACH - The Aruba Human Resources Association recently held its 1st Aruba Human Resources Association Seminar and Exposition on "Strategic Workforce Planning & Talent Management". This successful event with over 300 attendees was held at the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino. Mrs. Tessely Koolman, President of AHRA, welcomed



those present to this wonderful event and shared AHRA's vision on Strategic Workforce Planning and Talent Management and the role of HR professionals as key business partners in the development of their organization and the island of Aruba. Minister of Finance mr. A. Bermudez, opened the seminar by welcoming all present and also illustrated in the importance of the Seminar's



Topic. The Minister of Social Affairs, Youth and Labor drs. Pauldrick Croes was also present at the Seminar & Exposition. Attendees from Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, St. Maarten and Suriname had the opportunity to listen in on new ideas and recommendations from International Speakers from

the USA and Holland and to attend interactive workshops presented by Human Capital Experts from the Dutch Caribbean. The Exposition Area show-cased different Human Resources solution-providers was enjoyed by all. The Aruba Human Resources Association would like to thank their Board Members, their Sponsors, the Speakers, the Workshop Facilitators, the Exposition Partners and Volunteers for the success of the 1st Aruba Human Resources Association Seminar and Exposition.



Continued on page 16

Family Fruhschein Honored at the Marriott Ocean Club



PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice family who are loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba at

the Marriott Ocean Club as Distinguished Visitors. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation



to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive years.

The honorees were the Fruhschein family of North Brunswick, New Jersey. Mr. Jason and Mrs. Carleen and their beautiful daughter Ms. Darcy Fruhschein

are loyal members of the Marriott Ocean Club and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the weather, the beaches, the restaurants, and being on Aruba and staying at the Ocean Club is like being in paradise

for them! The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mrs. Lilian Britten, Mrs. Lisette Bouwman and Mr. Erwin Noquera GM of the Marriott Ocean Club. □

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Driftwood Restaurant. This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 www.driftwoodaruba.com Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.

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Loyal Guests Honored by the Aruba Tourism Authority!



EAGLE BEACH - Mr. Steve and Mrs. Pat Griffiths from the United Kingdom were recently honored as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba due to their 10th consecutive visit. Ms. Marouska

Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority conducted the ceremony held at the Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort. According to the couple, they love the beautiful weather and

wonderful food on Aruba. On group picture you can admire, the honorees, ATA representative Marouska, and Deborah of the Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort. Congratulations! □



Aruba Human Resources Association Hosts Dynamic Regional Exposition

Continued from page 13

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By CLIFF BRUNT

Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) -

Kevin Durant got annoyed with health questions during the preseason.

Just a few weeks into the regular season, he's already facing more of them. The Thunder said Wednesday the star forward will miss at least a week because of a strained left hamstring. Durant was injured during the second quarter of a 125-101 victory at Washington on Tuesday night. He will be re-evaluated in seven to 10 days.

"I came down a little awkward, and landed on it a little harder than I wanted to and I pulled it," Durant said after the game.

Durant has averaged 28.1 points, 7.3 rebounds, 3.0 assists and 1.25 blocks to help lead the Thunder and new coach Billy Donovan to a 5-3 start.

Durant was an ironman for most of his career and was the NBA MVP in 2013-14 before he ran into problems. He broke a bone in his right foot last preseason, had three procedures on it and played in only 27 games as the Thunder missed the playoffs.

Durant said before the season that he would go full speed upon his return.

"I never want to live in fear," he said. "I love the game so much, so if anything were to happen again, I'd have to live with it. I think if I would have went out there with doubt in my mind, something would happen. I was always taught, no matter what, if I'm on the court, I'm all right."

Russell Westbrook, last season's scoring champion, will again be called on to step up. He averaged nearly a triple double last season while Durant was out. This season, Westbrook is sixth in the league with



Durant Hamstring Injury Raises Health Questions

Washington Wizards guard John Wall (2) knocks the ball away from Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant (35) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2015, in Washington. The Thunder said Wednesday Durant will miss at least a week because of a strained left hamstring, injured on Tuesday night against Washington.

(AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

25.6 points per game, and 10.9 assists per contest. After Durant left the game Tuesday, Westbrook took over and finished with 22 points, 11 assists and 11 rebounds. □

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NHL Capsules

Detroit Red Wings edge out Washington Capitals 1-0

The Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Andreas Athanasiou scored 4:06 into the third period and Petr Mrazek had 38 saves, lifting the Detroit Red Wings to a 1-0 win over the Washington Capitals late Tuesday evening.

Athanasiou scored his first career goal in his second NHL game from an improbable angle. He shot from the goal line near the left corner, getting the puck between goaltender Braden Holtby and the left post.

Holtby had 26 saves for the Capitals.

The Red Wings have won four of their last five games despite scoring two or fewer goals in three of those victories.

RANGERS 3, HURRICANES 0
NEW YORK (AP) — Henrik

Lundqvist made 33 saves for his first shutout this season and 56th of his career, leading the Rangers to a win over the Hurricanes.

Jesper Fast, Rick Nash and Ryan McDonagh scored for New York, which improved to 11-2-2 with its sixth straight win. The Rangers improved to 17-1-0 against Carolina since Feb. 22, 2011.

Fast and Nash scored 11 seconds apart in the first to give the Rangers the lead even though Carolina controlled play for much of the period. Cam Ward stopped 20 shots for the Hurricanes, who fell to 6-9-0.

SABRES 4, LIGHTNING 1

TAMPA, Florida (AP) — Rookie Jack Eichel had a goal and an assist to help the Sabres beat the Lightning.

Buffalo also got goals from Cody Franson, Marcus Foligno and Rasmus Ristolainen. The Sabres captured the final game of the season series after they were outscored 10-3 in three earlier losses to Tampa Bay. Sabres goalie Chad Johnson made a full-out diving save across the crease to take a goal away from Nikita Kucherov in the second. Steven Stamkos scored his eighth goal this season for the Lightning, who have lost seven of nine (2-6-1).

BLUES 2, DEVILS 0

NEWARK, New Jersey (AP) — Jake Allen made 24 saves for his second straight shutout, Martin



Detroit Red Wings goalie Petr Mrazek (34) stops a Washington Capitals left wing Alex Ovechkin (8) shot in the third period of an NHL hockey game Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2015 in Detroit. Detroit won 1-0. (AP Photo/Paul Sancya)

Havlat scored against his former team and the Blues beat the Devils.

Allen, coming off a career-high 45 saves in a 4-0 win Saturday over Nashville, had an easier time against New Jersey. It was his third shutout this season and the eighth of his career. Magnus Paajarvi added a goal in the third period, and the Blues won for the sixth time in seven games. Cory Schneider stopped 26 shots for New Jersey, which was 8-2 in its previous 10 overall.

CANUCKS 5, BLUE JACKETS 3

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) —

Brandon Sutter scored the tiebreaking goal with 5:08 remaining, and Jannik Hansen had a career high four points with a goal and three assists, to lift the Canucks to a victory over the Blue Jackets. Henrik Sedin had two goals and an assist and Daniel Sedin added a goal and three assists to help the Canucks snap a three-game losing streak. Jacob Markstrom, out since Oct. 9 with a hamstring injury, stopped 42 shots in his season debut. Boone Jenner had a goal and an assist, and Jack Johnson and Cam Atkinson also scored for the Blue Jackets. Sergei Bobrovsky

had 25 saves in coach John Tortorella's first game against his former team.

PANTHERS 4, FLAMES 3

SUNRISE, Florida (AP) — Jaromir Jagr scored the tiebreaking goal in the third period as the Panthers beat the Flames to end a five-game losing streak. Aaron Ekblad, Reilly Smith and Vincent Trocheck also scored for the Panthers. Roberto Luongo made 25 saves.

David Jones scored twice for Calgary, which lost for the first time in three games. Sean Monahan had a goal, and Karri Ramo stopped 25 shots. □



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Suh's sorry, and Dolphins' run defense isn't very good

STEVEN WINE

Associated Press

DAVIE, Fla. (AP) -- Ndamukong Suh's mother watched his most recent game on TV and didn't like what she saw - or heard.

There wasn't much to admire about the Miami Dolphins' 33-17 loss at Buffalo. They gave up 266 yards rushing and became the first team ever to allow two 100-yard rushers and a 150-yard receiver in the same game, according to STATS. What upset Mom most, however, was Suh's language. He became angry when a referee's ruling cost him a sack, and Suh's profanity was audible to the crowd because it was accidentally captured by the official's microphone.

"I did hear from her about it," Suh said Wednesday with a sheepish smile. "I owe my mother an apology for swearing on TV and in public. So I'm sorry, Mother."

But when it comes to the Dolphins being sorry, nothing rivals their run defense. They gave up 7.4 yards per rush against the Bills, who threw only 12 times.

"They were able to take certain guys out of the play and get what they wanted," Suh said.

He has been double-teamed all season, and teammates haven't taken advantage of one-on-one matchups. As a result, Miami's run defense ranks next to last in the NFL, ahead of only Cleveland, allowing 142 yards per game.

The previous time the Dolphins were so bad against the ground game was in 2007, when they finished 1-15. Poor run defense is perhaps the biggest reason they're a disappointing 3-5 heading into Sunday's game at Philadelphia.

Miami's soft up front despite the presence of Suh, a three-time All-Pro tackle and the highest-paid defensive player in NFL history. The Dolphins signed him to a \$114 million, six-year con-

tract after he helped Detroit lead the league in run defense last season.

This season the Lions rank 30th without him. The Dolphins rank 31st with him.

Miami's woeful run defense is a collective issue, interim coach Dan Campbell said. But that collective doesn't include Suh.

"He has done a good job," Campbell said. "He has made an impact in the middle. They're trying to double him and trap him and do the things they can to try to take him out. ... You feel him during the game. He is making plays. He's somebody they have to account for."

Count on the Eagles to do that when they hand off to DeMarco Murray and Ryan Mathews.

"Philly has two great running backs," Suh said. "I've seen them both. Obviously I've been able to stop both of them."

The Eagles rank 10th in rushing, and they're certain to test the Dolphins' run defense, because everybody does. Teams are running the ball 31.5 times per game against Miami, most in NFL, in part because the Dolphins have fallen behind early in most of their games.

Miami's offense recognizes that getting an early lead would discourage opponents from running so much.

"We've got to make sure we don't have three-and-outs and put pressure on the defense," center Mike Pouncey said.

That approach worked when Campbell first took over a month ago. Before the Buffalo loss, Miami held three consecutive opponents below 100 yards rushing.

Suh remains confident the Dolphins have the ability to clamp down on their run defense.

"We've proven that," Suh said. "We've just got to execute on a consistent basis."

Mom will be watching. □



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Buffalo Bills quarterback Tyrod Taylor (5) reacts after being sacked by Miami Dolphins' Ndamukong Suh (93) during the first half of an NFL football game Sunday, Nov. 8, 2015, in Orchard Park, N.Y.

(AP Photo/Gary Wiepert)



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Questions about future of US Grand Prix as Texas cuts funds

JIM VERTUNO
AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's office said Wednesday it is cutting nearly \$6 million in funding

financial hit this year when storms nearly wiped out two days of the race week-end in October.

Track officials have said they were promised \$25

no longer in office and the trust fund was moved this year to Abbott's office.

The race still gets \$19.5 million from the state portion of the fund and local tax

ed under guidelines set by state lawmakers.

A recent state auditor's report criticized the generous formulas previously used to calculate payments, which

Adler said he has "some questions" about previous financing deals, but would not commit to spending local government money to cover the gap.

"The F1 race is the way that a lot of people in the world are introduced to our city," Adler said. "It brings a lot of people here. It helps brand us as an international city." Circuit of the Americas officials and investors and Formula One chief Bernie Ecclestone did not immediately respond to requests from The Associated Press for comment.

Ecclestone told the Austin American-Statesman that if funding was changed "it's going to make it difficult to continue the race in Austin."

The prospect of losing the Austin race, "for our sport, would be a disaster," said Mario Andretti, who won the Formula One championship in 1978. "It would discourage any other entity from pursuing another way to making Grand Prix happen. Formula One needs a race in the United States."

The Circuit of the Americas was built with private money and its investors include billionaire Red McCombs. The track hosts other events, notably the MotoGP Grand Prix of the Americas, a World Endurance Championship race, the summer X Games and multiple music concerts.

The track is unique in that it is the first built specifically for F1 in the U.S. Previous American Formula One races have been held at Watkins Glen, New York, Indianapolis Motor Speedway and on street courses in other cities.

Formula One didn't race in the U.S. from 2008-2011. Its return to a specialized facility was seen as a major move to gain a long-term foothold in a country where NASCAR is the most popular motor series by far. F1 is even poised in 2016 to have an America-led team, Haas F1, for the first time in 30 years. A Haas spokesman declined comment Wednesday. □



Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel, of Germany, pulls out of the pits during a practice session for the Formula One U.S. Grand Prix auto race at Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's office said Wednesday, Nov. 11, it is cutting nearly \$6 million in funding for the event.

(AP Photo/Darron Cummings, File)

for the United States Grand Prix, raising questions about the race's future just four years after Formula One put what many saw as a permanent footprint on American soil.

Officials at the Circuit of the Americas, a \$300 million track built specifically to host the race, have said they already took a major

million per year for 10 years from the state's portion of the Major Events Trust Fund, public money spent largely to pay Formula One's commercial management for the right to hold the race. That deal was worked out with former Gov. Rick Perry and former state Comptroller Susan Combs.

But Perry and Combs are

money will bump it to \$22.7 million, according to Abbott's office. But that's still a \$6 million cut from 2014 and down about \$7 million from the previous two years.

Abbott did not take questions at a Veterans Day ceremony Wednesday. Spokeswoman Cait Meisenheimer said the reduced figure was calculated

have been tweaked with the move to Abbott's office.

"It's inappropriate for an applicant to expect the governor to violate the legal standard and an independent auditor's decision," Meisenheimer said. Austin Mayor Steve Adler called the race "a very important event for our city."

Joe McKeehen wins World Series of Poker, \$7.68M

KIMBERLY PIERCEALL
DAN MICHALSKI
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Pennsylvania poker pro Joe McKeehen never gave up his lead in the World Series of Poker's championship event, and took home \$7.68 million this week as the victor.

25-year-old McKeehen won when his ace-10 turned into a pair of tens on the flop, ensuring his victory in a face-off with Joshua Beckley of New Jersey late Tuesday evening, who went all-in with a pair of fours.

McKeehen held an overwhelming lead in poker

chips coming into the finale and the entire three-day event. "I thought it was the Joe Show," said ESPN analyst and poker pro Antonio Esfandiari who said McKeehen played nearly perfect poker. "He played great, he ran great, and you can't overcome that combination. He did exactly what he needed to do to not give up the chip lead ever," he said.

McKeehen was characteristically nonchalant in the moments after winning. Asked if he had any plans for his \$7.68 million: not yet. "It was just my days for three days in a row," he said of the ease holding his

lead and eventually winning.

No limit Texas Hold 'em involves each player getting two cards unseen by the rest of the table and five community cards, the first three on the "flop," the fourth on the "turn," the fifth on the "river," with betting between each.

The championship got its start in 1970 with an invite-only event at Benny Binion's Las Vegas casino where the men gathered around the table initially chose the winner and has grown to a global contest that attracts thousands of poker players each year.

World Series of Poker tour-

nament events began in May and continued for 51 days with 68 events, culminating with the annual Main Event. It's a grueling multi-day poker marathon that whittled down the competition from 6,420 entries at \$10,000 each to nine players, all already guaranteed at least \$1 million each.

Before returning to the poker stage Sunday, McKeehen held 63.1 million chips, more than twice as many as the man in second. By the end of Monday, he had more than 128 million chips, more than three times as much as the man nearest him. □

Putin demanding probe of Russian doping allegations

J. ELLINGWORTH

JIM HEINTZ

AP Sports Writer

MOSCOW (AP) — Facing allegations that Russia engages in extensive, state-sponsored doping, President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday called on sports officials to carry out an internal investigation - but said that clean athletes shouldn't be punished for the actions of those who take banned drugs.

Putin's comments at a late-night meeting in Sochi, the city that hosted the 2014 Winter Olympics, reflected concerns that Russia's track and field athletes could be hit with a blanket ban for next year's summer Games in Rio de Janeiro.

Putin ordered Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko and "all colleagues connected with sport" to pay close attention to the doping allegations and for an internal investigation to be conducted - one that guaranteed full cooperation with international anti-doping bodies.

"The struggle with doping in sports, unfortunately, remains a pressing issue and it requires unending attention," he said.

However, Putin also drew a clear distinction with clean athletes.

"It's absolutely clear that athletes who stay away from dope ... shouldn't be held responsible" for those who use performance enhancing drugs, he said.

After the meeting, Russian Olympic Committee president Alexander Zhukhov echoed that position.

"I am confident that Russian athletes who are honest and clean, who never used doping, who undergo various checks -- no one has the right to strip them of the opportunity to participate in the Olympic Games," he said, according to state news agency Tass.

The meeting was delayed by hours because of heavy rains that prevented sports federation heads from flying to Sochi. However, Putin's determination to press ahead with the session indicated the sensitivity of the issue for Russia.

The meeting came in the wake of Monday's report by an independent commission appointed by the World Anti-Doping Agency that said Russian sports is plagued by extensive, state-sanctioned doping.

As a result of the report, Putin is now up against a Friday deadline for track's governing body to decide on whether to suspend Russia - a first step toward excluding its athletes from next year's Olympics.

Sports are a substantial piece of Russia's self-esteem -- both in athletes' performances and its ability to host huge international events. Putin himself has built much of his image on vigorous athletic exploits of his own. Earlier, Mutko said the country was ready to allow a foreigner to take charge of its troubled anti-doping laboratory.

Grigory Rodchenkov resigned Tuesday as the lab's director, a day after he was accused of concealing positive doping tests, extorting money from athletes and destroying 1,417 samples.

The lab - which handled doping tests for last year's Winter Olympics - has stopped work after WADA stripped its accreditation.

In comments reported by Russian agency R-Sport, Mutko said Russia was ready "to put a foreign specialist in charge of the laboratory, if that's what's needed."

Mutko's comments came as the governing body of swimming said Wednesday it is moving its doping test samples taken at the world championships in Russia to the WADA-accredited lab in Barcelona. □



Olympic medal winner Michael Phelps practices prior to competing in the Arena Pro Swim Series at the Aquatic Center on the University of Minnesota on Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2015 in Minneapolis. (AP Photo/Andy Clayton-King)

Phelps 'kind of giddy to see what happens'

DAVE CAMPBELL

AP Sports Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — With more medals than any other Olympic athlete, Michael Phelps could simply see the 2016 Games in Brazil as a bonus.

This won't be some publicity-seeking farewell lap, though, assuming he qualifies. He still has goals.

"They are very big and they're exciting," Phelps said, "and that's why I'm still here."

The lead-up to the Olympics has started to get serious for the swimmers, and Phelps just might be in his best shape yet, both mentally and physically, despite turning 30 in June.

Barred from the world championships in Russia because of his second drunken-driving arrest, Phelps re-established his place as the planet's most dominant swimmer with a turn-back-the-clock performance at the U.S. national championships in August. He posted world-best times in the 100-meter butterfly, 200-meter butterfly and 200-meter individual medley that week in San Antonio.

The headliner among a slew of stars on the slate for the first of seven Arena Pro Swim Series events, unofficially kicking off the pre-Rio race season Thursday at the University of Minnesota, Phelps is in a peaceful, confident, healthy place he hardly could have fore-

seen a year ago.

"I'm thrilled to be going into this year and kind of giddy to see what happens at the end," Phelps said Wednesday after warmups, sitting next to coach Bob Bowman in a room behind the pool deck at the Jean K. Freeman Aquatic Center. Age is just a number, right? "Anything, really, is possible," Phelps said. "I do believe that there's still more in the tank, and it's just up to Bob and I really finding out how to get there. I think we're on the right track."

Wearing a throwback Baltimore Orioles cap, a gray hooded sweatshirt and a thick, black beard, Phelps reflected on his first race in Minneapolis, the 1999 national championships.

"He got dead last in two events," Bowman said, rolling his eyes. "So he was really successful."

Phelps let out an easy laugh. He's been doing that more these days, since a stay at a treatment facility, the reparation of his complex relationship with his father and the renewal of his passion for the pool. He's taking better care of his body through eating and sleeping and avoiding alcohol, looking as lean as ever. He's the first one there for practice, after a period before the previous Olympics when Bowman could hardly count on him to show up at all.

"Going into 2012, I was just kind of going through the

motions," Phelps said.

Grumbled Bowman: "And '10. And '11."

In a revealing interview with Sports Illustrated for an article published this week, Phelps said he was in "a dark place" where he didn't want to be alive after the embarrassing and sobering DUI arrest in 2014. In his session with reporters Wednesday, Phelps spoke about the support he's seen on social media since the article emerged. He mentioned friends sending him messages, asking him how it felt to be so free.

"We are all human beings, and it's OK to seek help if you need it," Phelps said. "That's something that I hope a lot of people got out of it."

Clearly, there's a reason why Phelps never followed through on his vow to retire after the London games.

"It's amazing. I can't look five years into the future, let alone 12 when I'm 30," said fellow U.S. team stand-out Katie Ledecky, recalling a meet she attended at age 6 to watch Phelps swim. She added: It's pretty incredible that he's still making an impact."

Olympic champions Ledecky, Missy Franklin and long-time Phelps rival Ryan Lochte are also scheduled to swim this weekend, with nearly 50 national team members expected to race in the long-course event that runs through Saturday. □

Bangladesh sweeps Zimbabwe in 3-match ODI series

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Fast bowler Mustafizur Rahman claimed his third five-for in only his ninth match as Bangladesh swept Zimbabwe in the one-day international series with a 61-run win on Wednesday. Rahman returned figures of 5-34 to help bowl out Zimbabwe, chasing 277, for

215 in 43.3 overs. Bangladesh compiled a respectable 276-9. "This is an exceptional year for us," Bangladesh captain Mashrafe Bin Mortaza said. "Mustafizur is the great revelation of the year. He continues impressing us and I hope he will keep it up." Sean Williams was the

highest scorer for the visitors with 64. Captain Elton Chigumbura scored 45, and Malcolm Waller 32. Williams shared significant partnerships with Chigumbura and Waller, but Rahman ensured there would be no hiccup in their bid to sweep a second straight three-match series over Zimbabwe.

"It is disappointing once again," Chigumbura said. "We managed to pull back and kept them in the 270s, which I thought chaseable. But we kept losing wickets. That's frustrating." Left-arm fast bowler Rahman, who stormed onto the international cricket scene with consecutive five and six-wicket hauls against

India last June, left Zimbabwe in a precarious situation after dismissing openers Chamu Chibhabha (4) and Regis Chakabva (17) for 43-2. Offspinner Nasir Hossain got Craig Ervine to leave the visitors reeling at 47-3, but Williams came up with solid resistance to raise hopes of avoiding the whitewash. □

Pakistan sweeps to 6-wicket win over England in 1st ODI

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — An unbeaten century from Mohammad Hafeez guided Pakistan to a convincing six-wicket victory over England in their first one-day international at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium on Wednesday. Captain Eoin Morgan won the toss for England and decided to bat first, but disciplined Pakistan bowling and fielding restricted it to 216 runs. In reply, Pakistan was tottering at 41-3 in the 10th over. But Hafeez followed up his match-winning 151 in the second innings of the third test in Sharjah with a fluent unbeaten 102 runs in 130 balls. It was his 11th ODI century in 170 matches, and helped Pakistan overcome the target with 6.2 overs to spare. The 35-year-old Hafeez added 70 runs for the fourth wicket with Shoaib Malik (26) and 106 runs for the unbroken fifth wicket with Babar Azam, who



England's wicket keeper Jos Buttler tries to stop a ball of Muhammad Hafeez during the first one day international match between England vs Pakistan at Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2015. (AP Photo/Hafsal Ahmed)

scored 62 in as many balls. "I think Babar Azam was just outstanding. When he came in, we were under pressure. But the way he played, he gave confi-

dence to me as well," said Hafeez, who was named man of the match and later dedicated his century to Younis Khan, who had just announced his retirement

from ODIs. "The new ball was doing a bit early and their bowlers were bowling very well. I just thought to take it one ball at a time." Younis took

a good catch in the first slip of Alex Hales early in England innings and made nine before a mistimed pull off Reece Topley, who bowled superbly for his 3-26, saw him offer a simple catch to Adil Rashid at mid-on. England's decision to bat first backfired when it lost the first three wickets with just 14 runs on the board in the fourth over. Morgan (76) and the inform James Taylor (60) added 133 runs for the fourth wicket and propped up the innings. Batting looked easy with those two on the crease. But once the partnership was broken, when Morgan was caught behind the wicket by Sarfraz Ahmed off Shoaib Malik, wickets continued to tumble and England was all out with two balls to spare. Pakistan fast bowler Mohammad Irfan was the most successful bowler, taking 3-35 in his 10 overs. Irfan's opening partner Anwar Ali took 2-32, while Malik finished on 2-45. □

West Indies draw T20 series with 23-run win over Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Seam bowlers Dwayne Bravo and Ravi Rampaul shared seven wickets to propel West Indies to a 23-run victory over Sri Lanka in their second Twenty20 international on Wednesday and draw the two-match series 1-1. West Indies won the toss and elected to bat first, posting 162 for six in their 20 overs. Denesh Ramdin made 34 not out, while Johnson Charles was out for 34. Lasith Malinga and Milinda

Siriwardana took two wickets each for Sri Lanka. In reply, Sri Lanka was bowled out for 139 in the last ball of the match. Tillakaratne Dilshan made a second straight half-century and was out for 52. Bravo returned career-best bowling figures, with 4-28 surpassing his 4-38 against India six years ago. Rampaul had 3-20. It was West Indies' only win on this tour, after losing every match in the test and one-day international series.

Sri Lanka started its batting aggressively - at nearly 10 runs an over - until fast bowler Jerome Taylor removed Kusal Perera for 12, caught by Bravo with the score on 23. The wicket was followed by the best partnership of the innings, with 70 runs off 60 balls between Dilshan and Shehan Jayasuriya. It took a stunning effort by Andre Russell, who ran across to long-on to take a low catch by diving to his left, to break the partnership. It was Bravo's first

wicket, and it proved to be the turning point in the game. Jayasuriya scored 30 off 32 balls including a six and three boundaries, but Dinesh Chandimal was dismissed for one. Dilshan, who looked in imperious form, played a well-timed switch-hit to deep square leg — only to find substitute fielder Jason Holder positioned there to take a high catch. Dilshan made 52 off 38 deliveries hitting five boundaries, having scored 56 in the

first match in Pallekele on Monday. Dilshan's wicket left Sri Lanka four down for 102 and Angelo Mathews (5), Siriwardana (15), Chamara Kapugedera (2), Sachithra Senanayake (3) were all dismissed cheaply. Earlier, West Indies batsman Ramdin top-scored with an unbeaten 34 off 22 balls to lift his team's total after a midway slump. Charles also made 34 including, three sixes and a boundary, while Bravo added 31. □

Tech Talk:

After poking Facebook, life ain't easy for a site named Tsu

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Suppose every time you posted on Facebook, the social network tallied up the ad revenue it earned against your update and passed a percentage back to you. Of course, Facebook does nothing of the sort — but its much smaller rival Tsu.co does.

Though now Tsu (pronounced “Sue”) appears to be paying a different sort of price. In late September, Facebook started deleting millions of posts that included links to Tsu — more than 9.5 million of them, the smaller company claims. Facebook also blocks new posts that merely contain the text “tsu.co” but no links, warns users that links to Tsu are “unsafe” and fails to deliver Instagram posts and texts via Facebook Messenger that mention Tsu’s Internet address or link to the site.

Facebook defends its Tsu ban as a way to prevent its service from turning into a hangout for scam artists and opportunists hoping to make a quick buck. Tsu says Facebook just doesn’t want its users to realize that their photos, videos and personal observations might actually be worth something.

Facebook, which has an understandable interest in protecting its 1.5 billion users from an onslaught of digital rubbish, is one of the Internet’s largest gatekeepers. That gives it extraordinary sway in determining who can reach its vast membership — not to mention what those members can discuss using its apps and services.

That can be a big issue when the subject involves a challenge to a company’s core business — in this case, selling advertising against the material Facebook users contribute for free. Facebook has earned \$2.1 billion on revenue of \$12 billion during the first nine months of this year alone. The company now has a market value of about \$300 billion, and no particular interest in generating traffic for a potential competitor.

There’s a long history of similar disputes among technology companies, who almost always claim to be acting in the interests of their users. Amazon, for instance, recently yanked Google and Apple streaming-TV devices from its virtual shelves, clearing the way for its own such gadgets. In just the past few days, several banks have blocked outside financial-planning apps from con-



Sebastian Sobczak, CEO of Tsu.co, poses in his company's New York office. Tsu.co is winning converts to its social network by paying them for their posts. Facebook currently blocks all links from the smaller network, claiming they're low quality links that border on spam.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

necting to their systems, citing security concerns.

Tsu, which launched just over a year ago, has grown quickly; CEO Sebastian Sobczak says it has 4 million members. It has raised about \$11 million in venture capital.

Facebook’s Tsu purge came without warning and affected a swath of users that included rap artist 50 Cent, who shared a link to a video on Tsu with more than 38 million Facebook fans. The team that handles 50 Cent’s social media accounts didn’t re-

spond to requests for comment.

Facebook says that Tsu pays its users to post links on other sites, an incentive that breaks its rules for connecting with its social network. In a statement, Facebook said it doesn’t let outside publishers pay users to post links on its network “because it encourages spammy sharing.” The Menlo Park, California, company declined to elaborate. Sobczak denies that his service is paying people to post links on Facebook. Tsu users are paid based

on how much advertising it sells alongside their posts. That revenue-sharing setup is similar to financial models used by major digital services such as Google’s YouTube; Facebook users widely share YouTube links with one another.

“It feels like we are being singled out and they are trying to stop a competitor with a more efficient business model,” Sobczak says. “What are they afraid of?” Sobczak, a former venture capitalist, says Facebook hasn’t responded to his inquiries. □

Apple boss Cook says he'll resist UK government spy law plan

DUBLIN (AP) — Tech giant Apple will resist the British government’s efforts to get access to encrypted data through a new spying law, CEO Tim Cook said Wednesday.

Last week, Britain published a draft law that seeks to ensure that telecommunications companies “provide wider assistance to law enforcement and the security and intelligence agencies in the interests of national security.”

That worries firms like Apple, whose iMessage service offers “end-to-end” encryption, meaning the company doesn’t have the ability to read messag-



Apple CEO Tim Cook, right, listens to former Italian premier and President of Bocconi University Mario Monti as they attend the inauguration of the academic year at the Bocconi, in Milan, Italy. Apple will resist the British government’s efforts to get access to encrypted data through a new spying law, Cook said Wednesday.

(AP Photo/Luca Bruno)

es sent over the app.

Cook told students at Trinity College Dublin that Apple didn’t plan to introduce a “back door” ability to decrypt the messages.

“We will productively work with the governments to try to convince them that’s also in their best interests in the national security sense,” he said.

Cook said weakening encryption would be bad for online security, because “if you leave a back door in the software then there’s no such thing as a back door for the good guys only.”

“If there’s a back door anybody can come in,” he

said. British Home Secretary Theresa May said last week that the draft Investigatory Powers Bill “will not ban encryption or do anything to undermine the security of people’s data.”

But civil liberties and privacy groups have expressed alarm at its provisions, which include requiring communications companies to hold onto customers’ web traffic records for up to a year. The draft bill also says service providers will be legally obliged to assist the authorities in getting access to customers’ devices.

The bill has yet to be approved by Parliament. □

Weakness in retailers, energy pull Wall Street lower

MARLEY JAY

AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stock indexes ended lower Wednesday after a day of wavering between small gains and losses. A weak report from Macy's pushed retail stocks lower, and energy stocks retreated as the price of oil fell.

index fell 6.72 points, or 0.3 percent, to 2,075. The Nasdaq composite gave up 16.22 points, or 0.3 percent, to 5,067.02.

Macy's third-quarter sales were lower than analysts expected, prompting the owner of the Bloomingdale's chain to cut its profit forecast for the year. Ma-

other retailers following the trouble at Macy's.

Kohl's fell \$2.44, or 5.4 percent, to \$43.16 and Nordstrom dropped \$2.41, or 3.7 percent, to \$62.32. Urban Outfitters fell \$2.12, or 7.4 percent, to \$26.59. PVH Corp., the company behind the Calvin Klein and Tommy Hilfiger brands,

have hammered out the terms of a deal. The \$107 billion joining of AB InBev and SABMiller brings together brands including Budweiser, Corona, Grolsch and Stella Artois. The combined company will make about a third of the world's beer. Shares of AB InBev rose \$2.18, or 2.8 percent, to \$121.63.

As part of the agreement, SABMiller will sell its majority stake in a U.S. joint venture to Molson Coors for \$12 billion. Molson Coors added \$3.88, or 4.4 percent, to \$92.19.

E-commerce giant Alibaba said it smashed records during the "Singles Day" holiday. Alibaba said it received 467 million orders, worth about \$14.3 billion. That didn't translate into gains for its stock, which fell \$1.58, or 1.9 percent, to \$79.85. Security company ADT added \$1.44, or 4.4 percent, to \$34 after its fiscal fourth quarter profit surpassed analysts' estimates. Drugmaker Horizon Pharma sank 20 percent as it continued a dispute with pharmacy benefits manager Express Scripts. Horizon said it is questioning its relationship with Express Scripts, which is suing Horizon and took a pharmacy that dispenses Horizon's drugs out of its network. It's the latest tussle between drugmakers and companies that pay for their products. Horizon shares have lost about half their value since the end of July.

Shares of Horizon lost \$4.39 to \$17.99.

The price of gold declined \$3.60 to \$1,084.90 an ounce. Silver fell 9.3 cents to \$14.26 an ounce. Copper was little changed at \$2.218 a pound. □



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Stock indexes ended lower Wednesday after a day of wavering between small gains and losses.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

Macy's plunged 14 percent, its largest one-day drop in seven years. Other retailers slumped as investors took its results as a warning about third-quarter sales and the upcoming holiday shopping season. October's big rally is fading into the distance, but most of the market's recent losses have been small. Stocks have lost ground for five of the last six trading days, leaving the market with a meager gain for the year to date.

The Dow Jones industrial average lost 55.99 points, or 0.3 percent, to 17,702.22. The Standard & Poor's 500

cy's also said it will close more stores. Its shares sank \$6.58, or 14 percent, to \$40.44.

Citi Investment Research analyst Paul Lejuez said fewer people bought winter clothes like boots and coats in the third quarter because the weather was warm. That meant they were less likely to go shopping for clothes at all, so inventories built up and discounts increased. That's a troubling sign around three weeks before Black Friday. "That's bad for anybody that competes against Macy's," he said.

Investors dumped shares of

lost \$4.67, or 5 percent, to \$88.26.

In energy trading, the price of oil dropped 3 percent after a report showed a big buildup in U.S. crude stockpiles. The American Petroleum Institute said supplies grew by 6.3 million barrels, far more than analysts expected, according to Price Futures Group analyst Phil Flynn.

U.S. crude slid \$1.28 to \$42.93 a barrel in New York and Brent crude, which is used to price international oils, lost \$1.63 to \$45.81 a barrel in London.

The two largest beer makers in the world said they

China auto sales grow at strongest rate after tax cut

BEIJING (AP) — China's auto sales accelerated to this year's strongest growth in October after the market pulled out of a slump following a sales tax cut, data from an industry group showed Wednesday.

Purchases of sedans, SUVs and minivans in the biggest market by number of vehicles sold rose 13.3 percent to 1.9 million, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers.

That was up from September's 3.3 percent growth, which followed three months of contraction.

Chinese auto sales growth that peaked at 45 percent in 2009 fell steadily as the world's second-largest economy cooled and major cities tried to curb smog and congestion by imposing limits on numbers of new vehicles allowed.

Growth rebounded after Beijing cut the sales tax in September on vehicles with engine sizes of 1.6 liters and below by half to 5 percent.

In October, sales of SUVs grew by an explosive 60.6 percent over a year earlier to 622,000 units, according to CAAM. Sales of sedans edged up 0.2 percent to just over 1 million. Chinese brands that dominate smaller and lower-priced market segments grew as fast the market, reversing a trend of trailing global brands in growth and losing market share to them.

Total vehicle sales, including trucks and buses, rose 11.8 percent to 2.2 million units.

The sales decline was so unexpectedly severe that analysts who had forecast 7 to 8 percent growth this year slashed that to as low as 1.7 percent.

The slump was jarring for global automakers that are looking to China to drive sales. General Motors Co. and Volkswagen AG, the country's top-selling brands, cut prices to lure buyers. □

Kroger to buy Roundy's for \$178M in Midwest push

NEW YORK (AP) — Kroger said Wednesday that it plans to buy fellow grocer Roundy's for about \$178 million to expand in the Midwest.

Roundy's Inc. owns about 150 stores in Wisconsin and Illinois. Its shops include Copps, Mariano's, Metro Market and Pick 'n Save.

Cincinnati-based Kroger said the deal will give it a presence in new areas. Kroger Co. operates more than 2,600 stores in 34 states. It owns several supermarket chains, including City Market, Ralphs and Harris Teeter.

Kroger said it doesn't plan to close any stores and

Roundy's headquarters will stay in Milwaukee.

As part of the deal, Kroger said it will pay \$3.60 for each share of Roundy's, a 61 percent premium over its closing price of \$2.18 on Tuesday. Including debt, Kroger valued the deal at \$800 million.

The deal is expected to

close before the end of the year, although Roundy's has an option to find another buyer within 30 days.

Shares of Roundy's jumped \$1.40, or 64 percent, to \$3.58 in morning trading Wednesday. Kroger shares slipped 31 cents to \$36.96. □

Beer merger will not bring Budweiser, Miller under same roof

DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The world's two biggest beer makers will join forces to create a company that produces almost a third of the world's beer. But in the U.S., the deal will not bring arch rivals Budweiser and Miller under the same roof. Budweiser maker AB InBev announced Wednesday a final agreement to buy SABMiller for 71 billion pounds (\$107 billion).

To ease concerns the brewing behemoth might get a stranglehold of the U.S. market, SABMiller will sell its 58 percent stake in a venture with fellow brewer Molson Coors for \$12 billion. The deal includes rights to the Miller brand name and gives Molson Coors full control of operations.

The combined company — which as yet does not have a name — will also need to address regulatory issues in China, where SABMiller has a leading

position with a 49 percent stake in the Chinese beer Snow. China is the focus of intense interest, as it already drinks a quarter of the world's beer.

"This combination would create the first truly global brewer," AB InBev CEO Carlos Brito told reporters in a conference call after the deal, which is set to be completed next year.

AB InBev is seeking to bolster growth by acquiring SABMiller's businesses in Africa and Asia as changing tastes and the growth of craft beers cut sales in developed markets.

"The transaction would strengthen AB InBev's position in key emerging regions with strong growth prospects such as Asia, Central and South America, and Africa," AB InBev said in a statement. "These regions have hugely attractive markets and will be critically important to the future success of the Combined Group."



Drinks sit on the bar in a pub in London. The world's two biggest beer makers will join forces to create a company that produces almost a third of the world's beer, as Budweiser maker AB InBev announced Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2015, a final agreement to buy SABMiller for 71 billion pounds (\$107 billion). But in the U.S., the deal will not bring arch rivals Budweiser and Miller under the same roof. AB InBev's brands include Budweiser, Stella Artois and Corona, while SABMiller produces Peroni and Grolsch. (AP Photo/Kirsty Wigglesworth)

In some ways, though, the announcement marked only the end of the beginning. Though AB InBev got

SABMiller's main shareholders on board and lined up the largest-ever acquisition debt package, Erik

Gordon of the Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan said the deal faces regulatory risks. □

Express Scripts sues Horizon, fight over prescriptions grows



This photo shows a building on the Express Scripts campus in Berkeley, Mo. The drugmaker Horizon Pharma is questioning its relationship with an Express Scripts business after the pharmacy benefits giant sued Horizon for about \$140 million and dumped a pharmacy that dispenses its drugs. (AP Photo/Jeff Roberson)

TOM MURPHY
AP Business Writer

The drugmaker Horizon Pharma is questioning its relationship with an Express Scripts business after the pharmacy benefits giant sued Horizon for about \$140 million and dumped a pharmacy that dispenses its drugs.

Shares of Horizon Pharma Plc plunged Wednesday after it said it will re-evaluate its relationship with the Express Scripts Accredo specialty pharmacy, which accounts for a bigger slice of Horizon's revenue than any other pharmacy. Wednesday's announcement marked the latest

development in an on-going struggle between pharmaceutical companies and bill payers like pharmacy benefits managers over how some drugs are priced and sold. Dublin-based Horizon's comments came after Express Scripts said it was removing Linden Care phar-

macy from its network. St. Louis-based Express Scripts said Linden mainly dispensed Horizon drugs and failed to fulfill some key elements of its pharmacy network agreement.

An Express Scripts spokesman said the company also will review other similar captive pharmacies, which derive most of their prescription business from one drugmaker.

"We routinely monitor our network and take action when we see pharmacies trying to circumvent solutions, like formulary management, that protect payers and patients from wasteful drug" spending, spokesman Brian Henry said in an emailed statement.

Pharmacy benefits managers, or PBMs, run prescription drug plans for employers, insurers and other customers. They also have a lot of influence over drug company revenues because they negotiate drug prices and control access to coverage networks with

millions of patients.

Express Scripts and some other PBMs also recently cut ties with Philidor, a mail-order pharmacy whose relationship with drugmaker Valeant Pharmaceuticals International Inc. had been questioned by the investment firm Citron Research among others.

Horizon denied that Linden is a captive pharmacy for the drugmaker. The company noted that less than 5 percent of its sales come from prescriptions filled by Linden and processed by Express Scripts.

Horizon also contends that Express Scripts is trying to squeeze out small pharmacies that compete with Accredo. "Our philosophy of ensuring that patients get the medicine their doctors prescribe is threatening Express Scripts' profiteering and exposing what we believe is a lack of care for patients and respect for physicians," said Timothy P. Walbert, chairman, president and chief executive officer. □

Mutts



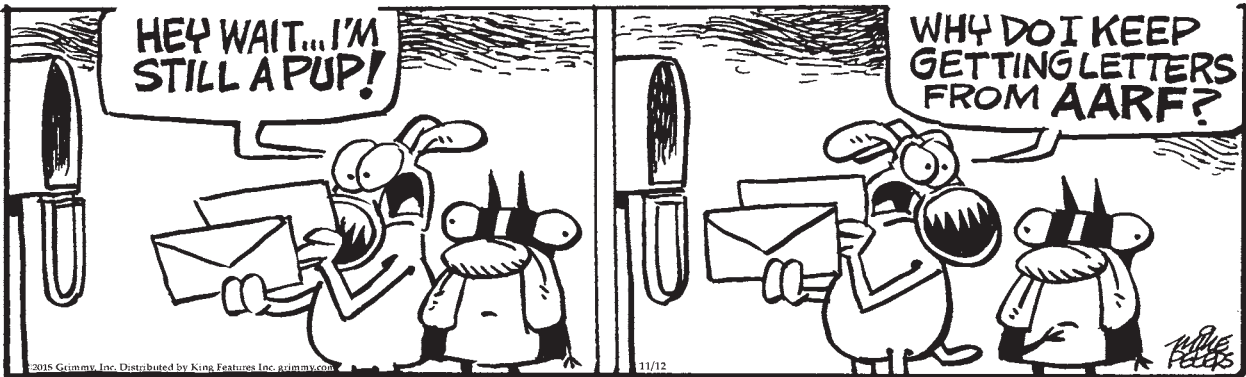
6 Chix



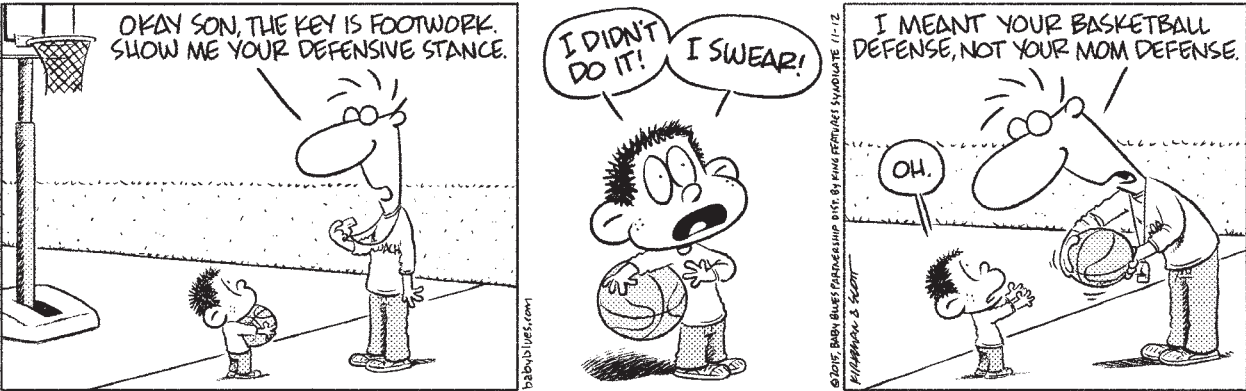
Blondie



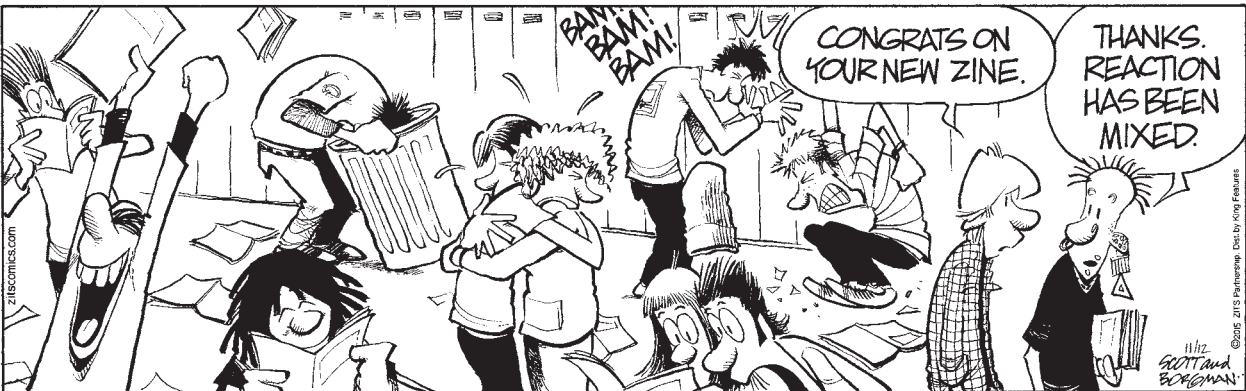
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			9		2			
	9	1				6	3	
	3			7			8	
3								8
		9				2		
5								7
	7			8			4	
	4	5				8	1	
			3		6			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/12

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

5	3	2	8	4	1	9	7	6
4	9	8	3	6	7	5	1	2
1	6	7	2	5	9	3	4	8
3	1	6	7	9	2	4	8	5
9	2	4	5	1	8	6	3	7
7	8	5	4	3	6	1	2	9
8	4	1	9	2	5	7	6	3
2	5	3	6	7	4	8	9	1
6	7	9	1	8	3	2	5	4

ACROSS

- 1 ___ in; wearing
5 Modify
10 Hole-making tools
14 Take a fancy to
15 Actor Willem
16 Cheer
17 Fail to include
18 Bury
19 Caesar's robe
20 Cure-all
22 Movie preview
24 Debtor's note
25 Pitt and Garrett
26 Overcook milk
29 Be nosy
30 Puts booze in the punch
34 Crematorium shelf supplies
35 Hawaii's Mauna ___
36 Movie theater
37 Summer month: abbr.
38 Hailed vehicle
40 Weep
41 Went suddenly off course
43 Actor Ameche
44 Despise
45 TV's Pompeo
46 House member: abbr.
47 More tender to the touch
48 Carried
50 Forbid
51 Baseball officials
54 Asian temples
58 Juicy fruit
59 Skin problems
61 Seldom seen
62 ___ more; again
63 Use bad words
64 Suffix for prefer or preexist
65 Cook in the microwave
66 Warms up
67 Writing table

DOWN

- 1 Clippety-___
2 Peru's capital
3 ___ to; like

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21			22			23				
			24			25								
26	27	28			29				30		31	32	33	
34				35				36						
37				38				39			40			
41		42					43				44			
45					46				47					
			48	49				50						
51	52	53				54					55	56	57	
58					59	60					61			
62					63						64			
65					66						67			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

11/12/15

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

BERG	GRAPE	CLOP
ACHY	LOWER	IOWA
THEM	OVERRATING	
SOU	OWED	RINSE
	MINER	DDE
PLACED		LOOSED
RITES	SLIER	GIN
AMID	ROOFS	MOVE
YES	SENSE	MACAW
SMITES		LAMENT
	ROD	SATAN
IGLOO		LATE TED
ROUNDABOUT		BRAY
KATE	DANCE	RISE
SLED	SHEER	ACTS

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11/12/15

- 38 Singing voice
39 Police officer
42 Pensioner
44 Esteemed
46 Save from peril
47 Droop
49 Educate
50 First, second and third
51 Come ___; find
52 List of dishes
53 Fill a suitcase
54 Pain in the neck
55 Copenhagen
56 Circle portions
57 Look for
60 Gun rights org.

Classifieds



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wk 42	room 338	\$4,000
wk 43	room 329	\$3,250
wk 49	room 144	\$5,500
wk 48 or 49	room 119	\$4,750
wk 48 or 49	room 551	\$5,500
wk 49 or 50	room 203	\$5,500
wk 49	542 room	\$3,000
wk 21 or 22	room 347	\$4,000

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Venus' twin? Earth-size planet is hot, may have atmosphere

MARCIA DUNN

Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.

(AP) — There's a new rocky Earth-size planet on our galactic block, and it's a sizzler.

Astrophysicists on Wednesday revealed the new-found world, GJ 1132b, named after the small nearby star that it orbits.

Even though the mercury can hit 450 degrees at this planet, it's cool enough to have a thick Venus-like atmosphere. Lucky for scientists, it's close enough to find out.

Planet GJ 1132b is just 39 light-years away, within the atmospheric study range of the Hubble Space Telescope. Given that a single light-year represents 5.87 trillion miles — the distance light can travel in a year — this planet is about 230 trillion miles away.

A team led by Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Zachory Berta-Thompson discovered the planet in May, using telescopes in Chile. He and his



This artist's conception made by Dana Berry of SkyWorks and provided by NASA on Nov. 6, 2015 shows GJ 1132b, foreground, a rocky planet similar to the Earth in size and mass, orbiting a red dwarf star. The planet is 39 light-years away - within the atmospheric study range of the Hubble Space Telescope. (Dana Berry/SkyWorks/NASA via AP)

colleagues reported their findings Wednesday in the journal Nature.

While the scientists say the planet is too hot for life, it's still much cooler than the rocky fireballs known to orbit stars beyond our solar system. The official term for a planet outside our solar system is exoplanet.

"If we find this pretty hot planet has managed to hang onto its atmosphere over the billions of years it's been around, that bodes well for the long-term goal of studying cooler planets that could have life," Berta-Thompson said in a statement.

Berta-Thompson and the others estimate that GJ 1132b has a diameter of about 9,200 miles, slightly bigger than Earth. Its mass, however, is thought to be 60 percent greater than Earth's.

Its home star — GJ 1132 — is a red dwarf one-fifth the size of our sun. The planet circles every 1.6 days from just 1.4 million miles out, thus the heat wave. A slight

dip in the starlight every 1.6 days was the giveaway for the observing team.

"Our ultimate goal is to find a twin Earth," said astronomer David Charbonneau of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, one of the authors, "but along the way we've found a twin Venus." He added in a statement: "We suspect it will have a Venus-like atmosphere, too, and if it does, we can't wait to get a whiff." The astronomers are seeking follow-up observations from Hubble and the Spitzer Space Telescope. The James Webb Space Telescope, due to launch in 2018, and other future craft could provide even more details. In a companion article in Nature, the University of Maryland's Drake Deming points out astronomers will be able to study GJ 1132b with "unprecedented fidelity" given its proximity and also the small size of its star, which should minimize light interference with the measurements. □

Study: Dispersants did not help oil degrade in BP spill

SETH BORENSTEIN

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chemical sprayed on the 2010 BP oil spill may not have helped crucial petroleum-munching microbes get rid of the slick, a new study suggests.

And that leads to more

questions about where much of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill went. If the new results are true, up to half the oil can't be accounted for, said the author of a new study on the spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

After the 172 million gallon (650 million liter) spill,

the chemical dispersant Corexit 9500 was applied by airplane on the slick to help it go away and help natural microbes in the water eat the oil faster. The oil appeared to dissipate, but scientists and government officials didn't really monitor the microbes and

chemicals, said University of Georgia marine scientist Samantha Joye. So Joye and colleagues recreated the application in a lab, with the dispersant, BP oil and water from the gulf, and found that it didn't help the microbes at all and even hurt one key oil-munching

bug, according to a study published Monday in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. "The dispersants did a great job in that they got the oil off the surface," Joye said. "What you see is the dispersants didn't ramp up biodegradation." □

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24/7

Bill O'Reilly, George Will in vitriolic dispute over Reagan

DAVID BAUDER
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Bill O'Reilly and George Will have escalated their extraordinary feud this week, a dispute that encompasses the leading cable television news outlet, a publishing empire and the legacy of the conservative movement's most revered politician. Will's most recent column in The Washington Post, headlined "Bill O'Reilly makes a mess of history," followed up their onscreen confrontation last Friday on O'Reilly's Fox News Channel show. O'Reilly responded by saying Will is jealous of his success.

"You know what, George?" O'Reilly said Tuesday night. "I'm bored with it. I'm bored with it!"

There has been no immediate comment from Fox News Channel executives either taking sides in the dispute or whether there would be any disciplinary action against Will, a network commentator, going on O'Reilly's show and essentially calling its host a liar.

The argument is centered on the book, "Killing Reagan," by O'Reilly and co-author Martin Dugard, about the aftermath of the 1981 assassination attempt on former President Ronald Reagan. It's one of a series of books, including "Killing Kennedy" and "Killing Lincoln," that have made O'Reilly the country's best-selling historian by far. The books usually sell 1 million copies or more in hardcover, a rare achievement these days for nonfiction.

Will has joined with several former Reagan administration officials in objecting to the book's characterization of the former president as occasionally mentally incapable to serve, a decline accelerated by the assassination attempt. Reagan, who served as president from 1981-89, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 1994 and died at age 93 in 2004. "Killing Reagan" relies in part on a memo written in 1987 by former White

House aide James M. Cannon to White House Chief of Staff Howard Baker, based on interviews with other White House personnel. The memo quotes concerns expressed about the president's mental capacity and suggests the possibility that relieving the president of his duties might be in order.

But former Reagan aides, including Edwin Meese, have said that Cannon later recanted those concerns when he and Baker became convinced Reagan was fully capable of handling the job. Baker and Cannon are now dead.

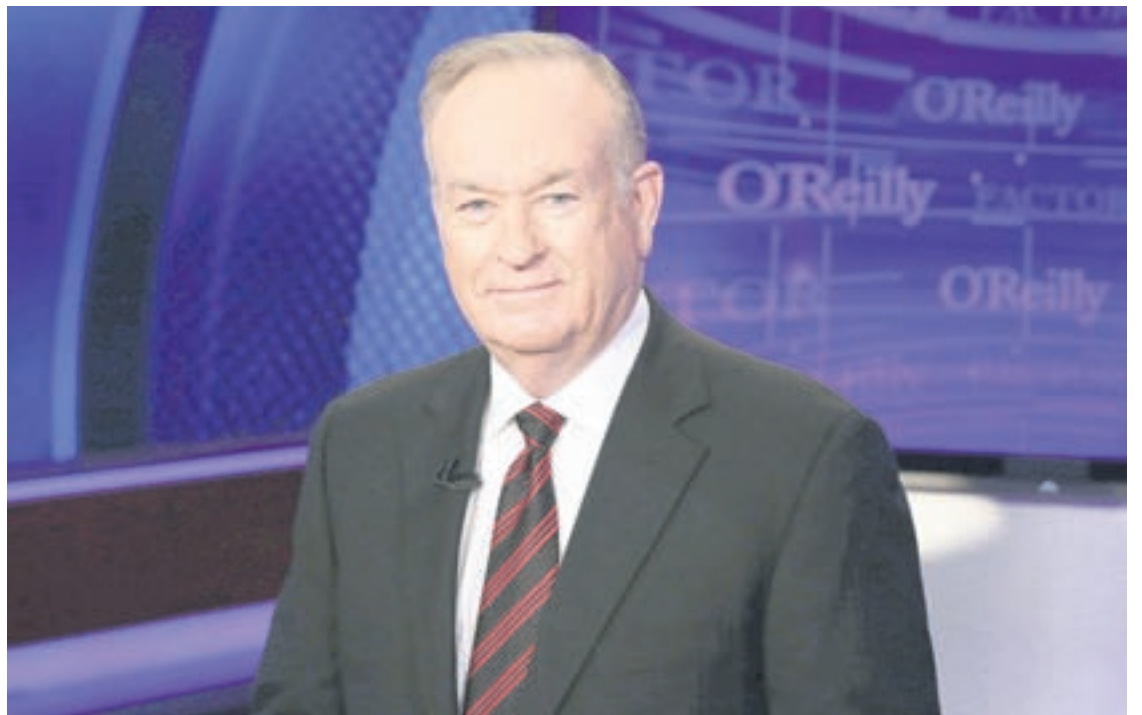
Meese, a former attorney general, and John Heubusch, executive director of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation, wrote in a column for Real Clear Politics last month that O'Reilly's book "does a real disservice to our 40th president and to history itself."

That cause was taken up by Will, who wrote that O'Reilly had slandered Reagan, and led to the on-air tussle last Friday.

Will said O'Reilly was "something of an expert" on misleading people, and suggested that the book plays into liberal attempts to discredit Reagan. He said he was surprised O'Reilly relied so heavily on a memo and neglected to interview surviving Reagan aides who would have disputed its contents. One would be Will's wife, who worked on the communications staff in the Reagan White House.

"His is an interesting approach to history: Never talk to anyone with first-hand knowledge of your subject," Will wrote in this week's column.

O'Reilly contends that his book is entirely accurate. He said he was reluctant to speak to people with "skin in the game" — former Reagan compatriots who have a vested interest in seeing the former president lionized. Despite the dispute, O'Reilly said his book is generally laudatory of Reagan. □



Bill O'Reilly of the Fox News Channel program "The O'Reilly Factor," poses for photos in New York. O'Reilly and conservative columnist George Will have escalated their extraordinary feud this week. Will's most recent column, headlined "Bill O'Reilly makes a mess of history," followed up their onscreen confrontation last Friday on O'Reilly's Fox News Channel show. O'Reilly responded by saying Will is jealous of his success. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)








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J.J. Abrams, 'Infinity Blade' maker join forces for new game

DERRIK J. LANG

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Two years ago, when the creator of the hit mobile game series "Infinity Blade" joked at the latest iPhone unveiling that the device would boast "lens flares that would make J.J. Abrams proud," ChairEntertainment co-founder Donald Mustard was actually making an inside reference to his top-secret collabora-

tion with the "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" filmmaker.

Abrams' Bad Robot production company and Chair have been clandestinely working in tandem since 2013 on a colorful espionage game for PC and mobile devices titled "Spyjinx."

The partnership came about because Abrams and his children were fans of Chair's games like



Director J.J. Abrams, Bad Robot's David Baronoff, and ChAIR co-Founders Donald Mustard and Jeremy Mustard discuss ideas for the "Spyjinx" video game, expected to debut in 2016. The developers of the hit "Infinity Blade" mobile game series are joining forces with J.J. Abrams and his Bad Robot production company for their next game. Chair Entertainment is working with the "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" filmmaker on the colorful new espionage game "Spyjinx."

(Epic Games via AP)

the side-scroller "Shadow Complex" and sword fighting simulator "Infinity Blade," while the developers at Chair were admirers of Abrams' film and TV projects. With a release set for 2016, Mustard said they're now ready to start talking about the partnership out in the open.

"When we build our games, we work very closely together as a team," said Mustard. "J.J. and all the other awesome people at Bad Robot quickly folded into that process. We all sat down with a blank slate and basically said, 'We can build anything. What do we want to build?' It went from there."

For the team at Bad Robot, the opportunity meant diving deeper into interactive entertainment after releasing the quirky special effects app "Action Movie FX" and working with Valve

on a new mode for the multiplayer shooter game "Team Fortress 2."

"We really wanted to expand into this area of entertainment," Abrams said in a video posted Wednesday by Chair. "Typically, Hollywood and games have not gone together well. There are some notable exceptions but not too many, and so we met these amazing people at Chair — not just as fans but as potential collaborators." Instead of leaning on pre-established Hollywood franchises like "Star Trek" or "Mission Impossible," Bad Robot and Chair, a subsidiary of Epic Games, opted to start from scratch with an all-new title combining several different game types.

"It's all about you creating an elite team of agents that can covertly reach or retrieve anything, any-

where, anytime while also building your secret, glamorous lair," said Mustard. "It's a blend of action real-time strategy wrapped up in dynamic world building but with a deep role-playing character development system set in this really bright, colorful world that's full of thieves, assassins and con-artists."

Mustard said the teams have mostly been collaborating electronically by video conferencing and sharing files. When they need face time, the Santa Monica, Calif., offices of Bad Robot are just a short flight from Chair's Salt Lake City, Utah, headquarters. Mustard noted that despite his commitment to "Force Awakens," Abrams has been actively involved in the game's development. "J.J. is very much a gamer," said Mustard. "It's not just lip service."

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SPECTRE 007
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FRI 5:45 | 8:50
SAT 2:40 | 5:45 | 8:50
SUN & HOL 2:40 | 5:45 | 8:50

MIDNIGHT SHOW THURSDAY
DECEMBER 17 TH, 12:00AM
STAR WARS

BRAD PITT | ANGELINA JOLIE
By the Sea
MON 3:55 | 6:30 | 9:10
FRI 3:55 | 6:30 | 9:10
SAT 3:55 | 6:30 | 9:10 | 11:50
SUN & HOL 3:55 | 6:30 | 9:10

SANDRA BULLOCK | BILLY BOB
OUR BRAND IS CRISIS
MON-THURS 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:25
FRI 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:25 | 11:50
SAT 2:10 | 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:25 | 11:50
SUN & HOL 2:05 | 4:35 | 7:00 | 9:25

CHRIS J. MURRAY | BRIT SHAW
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY
THE GHOST DIMENSION
MON-THURS 5:00 | 9:25
FRI 5:00 | 9:25 | 11:40
SAT 5:00 | 9:25 | 11:40
SUN & HOL 5:00 | 9:25

KRISTIN CHENOWETH | FRANCESCA CARALDI
THE PEANUTS MOVIE 3D
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
3D VERSION
MON-THURS 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:40
FRI 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:40 | 10:50
SAT 2:10 | 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:40 | 10:50
SUN & HOL 2:10 | 4:20 | 6:30 | 8:40

DANIEL CRAIG | CHRISTOPH WALTZ
SPECTRE 007
MON-THURS 4:45 | 7:50
FRI 4:45 | 7:50 | 10:55
SAT 1:45 | 4:45 | 7:50 | 10:55
SUN & HOL 1:45 | 4:45 | 7:50

VIN DIESEL | ROSE LESLIE
THE LAST WITCH HUNTER
MON-THURS 9:00
FRI 9:00 | 11:25
SAT 9:00 | 11:25
SUN & HOL 9:00

MATT DAMON | JESSICA CHASTAIN
THE MARTIAN
WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES
MON-FRI 5:50 | 8:50
SAT 2:50 | 5:50 | 8:50
SUN & HOL 2:50 | 5:50 | 8:50

BRADLEY COOPER | SIENNA MILLER
BURNT
MON-THURS 7:10
FRI 7:10
SAT 2:40 | 7:10
SUN & HOL 2:40 | 7:10

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CBS gives post-Super Bowl slot to Colbert

NEW YORK (AP) — Stephen Colbert has landed the coveted post-Super Bowl time slot on CBS this winter. The network said Wednesday that a special edition of Colbert's "Late Show" will air directly after the Feb. 7 game, the first time that distinction has gone

to a late-night show. Late local news will follow Colbert, and then CBS will show a special edition of James Corden's "Late Late Show" afterward.

The post-Super Bowl slot annually is the most desired in television, since it follows a telecast watched by more

than 100 million viewers. If just one-fifth of the people watching the game keep the TV on CBS afterward, it will easily be the largest audience Colbert has faced. Colbert began in September as David Letterman's replacement on the "Late Show."

POP BRIEFS

Bieber planning 58-city tour for Purpose album

NEW YORK (AP) — Justin Bieber will mark a comeback on the road with a 58-city tour in 2016. The pop star announced his "Purpose World Tour" on Wednesday, which kicks off on March 9, 2016, in Seattle, Washington, and wraps in New York City at Madison Square Garden on July 18, 2016. Tickets go on sale Friday, when Bieber will release his new album, "Purpose." Two songs from his album, "What Do You Mean" and "Sorry," are currently in the Top 5 on Billboard's Hot 100 chart. Bieber's tour also will stop in Los Angeles, Chicago, Las Vegas, Dallas, Atlanta, Philadelphia, Boston, Miami, Toronto and Montreal. On Friday, the 21-year-old will play a concert dubbed "An Evening with Justin Bieber" at the Staples Center in Los Angeles. Tickets cost \$18. □

Mick Jagger, Rob Robertson honor Allen Toussaint

NEW YORK (AP) — Mick Jagger and Robbie Robertson are paying tribute to the late Allen Toussaint, the New Orleans musician who wrote "Southern Nights," "Mother-in-Law" and many other hits. "He was such an influential songwriter and performer," Jagger tweeted Wednesday. Early in their career, the Rolling Stones covered Toussaint's "Pain in My Heart" and "Fortune Teller," both written under the pseudonym "Naomi Neville." Meanwhile, Robertson wrote on his Facebook page that Toussaint's horn arrangements were vital parts of the Band's live shows and noted that he had the "honor of inducting Allen into the Rock And Roll Hall Of Fame" in 1998. Toussaint died of a heart attack Tuesday at age 77. He also worked with Paul McCartney, Lee Dorsey and the Meters among others. □

Sexy Victoria's Secret show hits milestone

LEANNE ITALIE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Some lit up, others were pretty — and patriotic — in pink and still more burst forth like fireworks.

Yes, Tuesday was Victoria's Secret sexpot angel time, though the masses will

their varied wings around as they strutted on the runway in 75 looks at a Manhattan armory. But first, there was hair and makeup to be done and a "pink carpet" of celebrity guests to be walked. Questlove and Nick Cannon were on hand, along with a dapper

cures, spray tanning and makeup commenced. "She's such a sweetheart. Her advice was just breathe and just take it in." So how were the nerves for the newcomers?

"Actually, surprisingly, not bad," Hadid said before the show. "I was really ner-

ers, including Jenner. Her gal pal Hadid was among a group of exotic butterflies with wings and outfits sparkling with crystals. The patriotic pink group included an American-flagged theme outfit and wings. This year's iteration of the annual Fantasy Bra



Elsa Hosk, from left, Candice Swanepoel, Behati Prinsloo, Lily Aldridge and Alessandra Ambrosio walk the runway during the Victoria's Secret Fashion Show at the Lexington Armory on Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2015, in New York. The Victoria's Secret Fashion Show will air on CBS on Tuesday, Dec. 8, at 10pm EST. (Photo by Evan Agostini/Invision/AP)

have to wait until 10 p.m. EST on Dec. 8 to watch the 20th annual lingerie extravaganza on CBS. This was just the taping, including musical performances by The Weeknd, Ellie Goulding and Selena Gomez, after Rihanna abruptly canceled.

Veteran VS walkers like Lily Aldridge and Alessandra Ambrosio were joined by newbie angels, including Martha Hunt and Elsa Hosk. Kendall Jenner and Gigi Hadid were among the non-winged supermodels new to the glitzy show that generates weeks of advance buzz and will be seen in 192 countries by more than 500 million people, according to company officials.

In all, 47 models blew air kisses, flirted on stage with the camera and flipped

member of the Mets, Matt Harvey, in a black Versace suit.

Caitlyn Jenner was among those who attended the runway show to cheer on daughter Kendall.

Hadid said backstage that she has big respect for the veteran angels and hopes to earn her own wings one day. Brand new angel Rachel Hilbert, from Rochester, New York, was in the Pink USA squad on the runway, and was also in awe of the longtime ladies, including Brazilian beauty Adriana Lima, seated just inches away on a comfy white couch in rollers backstage.

"Uh, yeah, Adriana Lima. She's sitting right there," Hilbert smiled as all wore pink-and-white striped robes, curlers in their hair, while manicures, pedi-

vous in rehearsal."

She shared the stage later with Gomez and Goulding.

"I love both of them," said Hadid, who fell to the floor and gasped in a video of her audition, when she was told she was picked.

As for her famous curves, she prepared with the help of boxing and ballet.

"A lot of sweating and then just focusing on smaller parts because when everything's in high-def you have to not forget about the little things," Hadid said. "I've watched the show my entire life and this has been such a dream."

The show featured sections of '60s boho angels flashing piece signs in teeny bras and panties, swinging fringe and showing off wings made of sculptured paper, leather and feath-

was fashioned in bursts of fireworks, the theme for one of the liveliest sections of the show. The demi-bra and matching belt are worth \$2 million and were worn by Aldridge. They were created by the jewelry company Mouawad in 18-karat gold and encrusted with 6,500 diamonds, blue topaz, yellow sapphires and other precious stones.

Hunt was the last firework, closing the show in another center piece, courtesy of Swarovski, one of the evening's sponsors. It was a corset sparkling with 90,000 gold, red, green and blue crystals. The look, along with her light-up wings, included 20,000 crystals and 1,200 battery-powered LED lights. The battery pack she lugged weighed in at 19 pounds. □

Holiday Preview: Toys having best year in a decade

A. D'INNOCENZIO

AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Toys are staging a comeback.

The U.S. toy industry is expected to have its strongest year in at least a decade after several years of kids choosing videogames and mobile apps over Barbie and stuffed bears.

Annual toy sales are projected to rise 6.2 percent to \$19.9 billion in 2015, according to The NPD Group Inc., a market research firm that tracks about 80 percent of the U.S. toy market. That's up from a 4 percent increase last year, and the biggest increase in at least 10 years since the group has tracked toys using its current system.

The increase factors in brisk sales during the final quarter of this year, when sales are expected to be up 5 percent to \$9.6 billion, a stronger pace than last year's 3.6 percent gain.

The growth is being fueled by increasing popularity of collectibles, toys based on Hollywood blockbuster films and better technology that allows toys to do things like talk back to children. It comes after sales slowed and sometimes declined in the past 10 years as children — much like their parents — became more enthralled with technology. Now, toymakers are using chip technology, which is getting cheaper and more powerful, in toys. They're also focusing on grabbing the attention of the long-ignored but increasingly influential preteen crowd.

"The selection is much greater than in the past," said Jim Silver, editor-in-chief of TPM, an online toy review site. "Technology is much better in the toy aisle, and it's really inspiring young kids to play but also bringing older kids to things like radio control and role play items."

What's giving toys a boost?

HOLLYWOOD

Surging demand for all things "Frozen" helped the toy industry achieve a rare gain last year. Toys related to the blockbuster about a princess who sets off to find her sister with icy powers were popular. In fact, "Frozen" was the top toy brand last year,

reaching \$531 million in sales, according to NPD.

And the Hollywood infatuation is expected to continue with the release of the "Star Wars" movie on Dec. 18: Hundreds of products, from puzzles to action figures related to "Star Wars," are expected to exceed Frozen's success.

Marty Brochstein, who's with the International Licensing Industry Merchandisers Association, says the \$199.99 Lightsaber from Hasbro, which features motion sensor-controlled sound effects, already are on backorder. He says "Star Wars" appeals to both kids and adults.

"It's multi-generational," Brochstein says.

Hasbro, the nation's second largest toy company, reported a jump in second-quarter profit last month, helped by toys related to "Star Wars."

Hasbro has the major merchandising licensing rights to make Star Wars toys from now until 2020. It's also teaming up with Walt Disney Co.'s consumer prod-



A pair of MiPosaurs and a trackball from WowWee are displayed at the TPM Holiday Showcase in New York. The robotic creatures respond to hand gestures and they can be trained to follow, chase or guard the trackball. The U.S. toy industry is expected to have its strongest year in over a decade, with anything robotic expected to help drive holiday sales.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

sluggish U.S. sales.

"It will be very interesting to see at the end of the holiday season where the growth comes from. And how much growth there is," Brandon says.

cal Unicorn, for example, responds to voice and touch with more than 100 sound and motion combinations. Mattel, the nation's largest toy company, also is hoping technology

Mattel's new Barbie features speech recognition and can have a two-way conversation with girls. And its Fisher-Price brand has "Smart Bear," an interactive plush bear marketed as having the brains of a computer without the screen — and is linked to a smartphone app. Fisher-Price also is pushing a robotic dinosaur.

"The best thing about it is that it shoots from the front and it shoots from the back," says Matthew Fic, a 6-year-old who recently played with the toy.

TARGETING THE PRETEEN SET

The 8- to 12-year old group accounts for 22 percent of toy sales, according to NPD, but has been ignored because they're the biggest users of mobile devices.

Now, toy makers believe they can keep older kids' attention because features like voice recognition are more affordable.

For example, Spin Master's Meccano Meccanoid G15 allows kids to build and program their own personal four-foot-tall robot that records and plays back audio and it learns from them. It has more than 1,200 parts and features 64 megabytes of memory. And Hasbro spiffed up its Nerf gun to cater to the 14-plus crowd. Nerf Rival shoots balls 100 feet per second. □



Barbie Fashionista Dolls from Mattel are displayed at the TPM Holiday Showcase in New York. Richard Dickson, Mattel's president and chief operating officer, told investors that he's seeing "a lot of positive momentum" coming from its two biggest brands - Barbie and Fisher-Price.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

ucts division to make "Frozen" dolls in 2016. That deal froze out Mattel, which sells the dolls based on "Frozen" characters.

Toys R Us' new CEO David Brandon says the retailer is placing big bets this holiday season on brands like "Star Wars" to help boost

BETTER TECHNOLOGY

Toy companies are pushing remote controlled cars and droids controlled by smartphones. And robotic creatures are becoming more life-like with voice recognition features.

Hasbro's StarLily My Magi-

will help it reverse years of slumping sales.

"You want to make sure that you give them enough that they're going to want to walk away from their iPads and phones," said Mattel's Executive Vice President Geoff Walker.